

Blue Green Algae Water....



No Swimming! No Drinking!
No Paddling!

Summer gives us more daylight, lots of outdoor activity and warmer temperatures. Dogs can get thirstier than usual while out on their walks and may take a drink from a pond or are water loving dogs and go for a paddle or swim.... but wait..... **is that water a blue/green colour?** Then alarm bells should be ringing as your dog needs to be kept well away from this dangerous substance!

What is blue-green algae? They are a type of bacteria called **cyanobacteria**. With the right conditions they will grow very quickly, gathering together on the water surface as a blue-green scum. At times they can also look a green brown colour and you may even notice foam. This cyanobacteria is mainly found in non-flowing fresh water such as ponds, streams, rivers and lakes and is **highly toxic**.

Risks for Dogs The toxins produced in blue-green algae, are very harmful and can effect liver function. Very sadly it is often fatal or if your pet survives, they can suffer from long-term health problems.

If you suspect or see that your dog has had access to pond, stream, river or lake water, and you notice any of the following symptoms, **please do not delay in calling your vet**.

**Vomiting – Drooling – Diarrhoea – Fitting
Difficulty breathing – Disorientated – Collapse**

Prevention is Better

● Keep your dog on a lead near blue-green algae water. ● Do not allow drinking from puddles, streams, ponds etc. ● Take clean water from home for your dog to drink.

If you would like more information please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Congratulations
Chloe!**



We are thrilled to announce that **Chloe** has successfully completed her journey to become a **qualified vet nurse!** Chloe's dedication, hard work, and passion for animals have led her to this incredible achievement. As a vet nurse, she will play a crucial role in caring for our furry friends, ensuring their well-being, and supporting our veterinary team.

Chloe, your commitment to learning, your empathy towards animals, and your ability to handle challenging situations make you an outstanding addition to our practice. Here's to many more years of making a positive impact on the lives of animals and their owners! **Cheers to Chloe!**

Is Your Rabbit too Hot?

In hot summer weather we all like to stay cool. Dogs will pant to pull air across the capillaries in the tongue, so helping cooler blood to circulate through the body. Cats have sweat glands in their paws to lower their temperatures. Our rabbits also need to keep cool! This is very important as pet rabbits are at a higher risk of heatstroke, because unlike their wild rabbit friends, they cannot burrow underground when it gets too hot. Pet rabbits rely on us to help keep them cool. It's not a sure bet that UK summers are going to be hot, but we have experienced searing temperatures some years, so keep an eye on the weather so you are prepared. If temperatures reach 25 degrees celsius your rabbit could be dangerously heating up!

Prevent Heatstroke.....Keep Cool!

If it gets too hot you may need to bring them inside the house out of the heat.

NEVER leave your rabbits in direct sunlight.

Provide plenty of shade for your rabbits.

Put your rabbits housing and outside run in the shade.

Ensure their housing has good ventilation.

Provide a regular supply of cool drinking water.

Have cooling mats for your rabbits to lay on.

Groom rabbits with thick fur as this will help remove any loose fur.

Heatstroke signs to look out for in your rabbits are:

- Lethargy ● Shaking ● Breathing with mouth open
- Red ears that feel hot ● Weak & Confused ● Drooling

Heatstroke in any of your pets is serious and can happen very quickly. The condition requires immediate treatment, so contact us without delay.



GLAVEN SURGERY HOURS

We are open for pet healthcare and advice during the hours of

Holt 01263 713200

Monday to Friday
8.30am - 6pm

Saturday 9am - 12noon

Wells 01328 711022

Monday to Friday
9am - 12noon
3pm - 6pm

Consultations with our
Veterinary Surgeons and Nurses
are by appointment

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Just for Cats



Environmental Needs of our Feline Friends

If you are a cat owner, it is important to allow your cat to engage in their normal behaviour, especially with the growing population of indoor cats. You can do this by having a good understanding and optimising your home environments to meet your cat's needs including multi-cat households too.

Follow our tips for a **Healthy Feline Environment!**

Providing a safe space is important for cats to feel protected from what they perceive as a potential threat within their core territory. Elevated surfaces such as perches/shelves, or enclosed areas for concealment like cardboard boxes/under the bed/cat carriers. Allow your cat to select these areas and be easily accessible.

A secure location lets a cat avoid and evade unfamiliar smells, noises, people and other cats. Identify areas where your cat spends most of its time. Some cover a wide area, others prefer smaller spaces. Ensure your cat's needs are met within these areas, especially if their home is shared with more confident cats.

Having multiple **key environmental resources in separate areas** e.g. food, water, litter trays, scratching areas, play, resting and sleeping areas is important. Cats need to access these without feeling threatened, particularly in a multi-cat household where there is often competition of resources due to being naturally solitary feeders. Ideally having a choice for each resource can help your cat feel more in control, which reduces anxieties and stress. Provide separate feeding stations for each cat, multiple water bowls away from these stations, multiple resting places, including elevated areas to increase their perception of territorial space, which then increases their confidence.

Offer opportunities for **play and predatory behaviour**; this is especially important for indoor cats as both **physical and mental stimulation will help reduce risks of obesity, boredom and undesirable behaviours due to stress.** Allow your cat to express as much of a hunting sequence as possible to help satisfy their instinct to locate, stalk and kill prey. This can be done with play-based interactions such as toys that move like prey, e.g. a fishing rod toy for short periods of up to ten minutes, by hiding food in different locations around the house in boxes, or on elevated surfaces that requires your cat to actively locate their food.

Puzzle feeders and food balls offer stimulation and self-directed activities particularly for cats that are left for long periods. Rotating a selection of soft toys helps keep your pet interested, as these are good for cats to attack and carry away giving them great enrichment. It is essential to provide positive, consistent and predictable **human-cat social interactions** with your pet. Gentle and friendly handling from a young age helps create a strong human-cat bond and overall reduces stress and fear of humans. Allow your cat to choose and control the type of human contact. Cats have their own levels of tolerance and preference depending on the individual and life stage. Many will prefer **high frequency low intensity interactions**, this includes short periods of petting around the face and head. Reducing the frequency and increasing the intensity can often cause stress for your cat.

Respecting your cat's sense of smell is very important as they use olfactory and chemical information to evaluate their surroundings. This aids in increasing their sense of security and comfort within their core territory. You may see your cat rub their faces and bodies onto door frames and other objects. **Do not clean these areas** as it is a form of marking and communicating, as is scratching objects. A scratching post will encourage your cat to display natural behaviour. Ensure the post is sturdy and ideally made of preferred materials such as wood, sisal rope or corrugated cardboard. Make it tall enough so your cat can fully stretch. It can be vertical or horizontal but having both could be beneficial. Locate them in your cat's favourite places, sleeping areas or in front of windows is a great location. When cats wake up in the morning, often the first thing they do is scratch!

It is recommended to **avoid introducing strong odours** such as cleaning products, air fresheners, medications or foods that could interfere with your cat's sensory perception of their environment. Rotating bedding when washing can help retain some of the cat's scent. **If you would like to know more on how to enrich your cat's environment, please call us for further advice.**



Cat Chipping Reminder

From 10th June 2024 cat microchipping will be mandatory. Please call now for an appointment. Full details can be found at www.gov.uk/government/news/treasured-pets-now-safer-as-microchipping-for-cats-becomes-compulsory



GLAVEN
Veterinary Practice

Old Station Way **Holt** NR25 6DH
01263 713200
The Old Mill, Maryland
Wells-next-the-Sea NR23 1LY
01328 711022



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