

Our Care and Compassion in Difficult Times



Life was certainly very challenging during 2020, but here at Hungerford Vets, we have stayed positive throughout these difficult times and are carrying this on into 2021. Although there have been longer working days, more night and weekend duty, plus an unprecedented number of telephone calls to deal with, we have pulled together and worked as a strong team to ensure the provision of that all-important veterinary care for you and your pets, whilst trying to keep our staff safe.



To achieve this, it has meant a complete reorganisation in the way that veterinary practice life functions. Initially we split into two teams of vets, nurses and reception staff. While the one team on duty were working extremely hard covering all the work that a whole team would normally do, the other team could stay safe until it was their turn to be on duty. Some staff were furloughed, and vets became familiar with doing telephone consults. However, for those situations where it was necessary for our clients to enter the building, we have equipped the practice with screens,

limited numbers to ensure social distancing and our team wear full PPE. **We have also organised an outdoor collection point for pre-ordered paid prescriptions and food**, which we are pleased to report is working well and avoids clients unnecessarily entering the practice.

We are very much looking forward to gradually being able to return to normal life again, which we hope will not be too long now. The utmost thanks goes to all our teams at both clinics for all their hard work, adaptability and dedication to the cause. To our clients and all your pets, thank you for your understanding and patience while we continue with providing the very best in veterinary care here at Hungerford Vets.



Tubby, chubby, plump, stout...maybe even chunky, are just a few names for your pet being overweight! Dogs and cats don't have guilt feelings about what type or how much food they devour. Their owners provide it and pets eat it.... it's as simple as that..... but just like us too much food can make waistlines expand!

Sadly there are pets who are overweight and this can lead to serious health problems. Overfeeding, incorrect diet, treats, table scraps and lack of daily exercise, all contribute to pets being fat. That treat of a slice of buttered toast eaten by your dog, is equivalent to a human eating one whole burger in a bun! Combine this with their normal daily intake of food, plus lack of exercise and your pet could gain weight!

Obesity Health Problems ● Heart disease ● Diabetes ● Arthritis ● High blood pressure ● Breathing difficulties

*If your pet's weight is heavy on your mind, then now is the time to contact us. Our friendly team can help your pet lose those unhealthy kilos and maintain a perfect weight. Sometimes there can be an underlying condition that is causing your pet to be overweight. So before embarking on any new diet or exercise plan, it is always best to seek advice from us. **Remember we are here to help you keep your pet healthy and happy!***



Hours

The Veterinary Hospital
Hungerford

01488 683999
Mon to Fri 8am - 6pm
Sat 8.30am - 12.30pm

Belmont Veterinary Clinic
Pewsey

01672 563413
Mon to Fri 8.30am - 6pm

24/7 Emergency
01488 683999

Friendly Furry Pets

If you are looking to have a small pet, guinea pigs are lovely 'daytime' active animals, and very responsive to your attentions. These amazing little creatures are one of the oldest domestic animals dating back to 1000 - 500BC.

Healthy Guinea Pigs

Like all pets, they need regular check-ups with a vet. A guinea pig's teeth and nails grow continuously and may require clipping. Mites and fungal infections are sometimes a problem, so at their appointment we can examine their coat and skin too.

Guinea Pig Guide

- The average lifespan is 4-8 years.
- Guinea pigs like companions - a neutered pair or small group of the same sex.
- A good-sized hutch with plenty of dust free bedding and an outside run with tunnels and boxes as they are flight animals and like to hide!
- Provide protection from the sun as guinea pigs can suffer sun/heatstroke.
- Ensure they are warm, dry and snug during winter.

Good Food for Guinea Pigs

- A varied diet is essential - grass, dandelions, carrots, cabbage, spinach, apple and pear. They require a source of vitamin C in their diet. This is found in grass and also in good quality dried pellet food specifically for guinea pigs, which is great for their teeth too.
- Give a regular supply of hay and clean fresh water.
- **Warning!** Always identify any plants before feeding your pet as some may cause illness and sadly could be fatal. If in doubt.....don't let them eat it! Place outside runs away from potentially hazardous plants.

If guinea pigs sound like the right pets for you, why not get in touch with the rescue centres as there could be these delightful creatures waiting for their forever homes. For further information on guinea pig care, please contact us and a member of our friendly team will help.



A Wee Bit of Trouble!

When a new puppy or kitten arrives in the household, the mop and bucket are always to hand! With training and patience your young one soon gets the hang of toileting outside.

For some pets, the puddles may continue longer than expected or reappear later in life, and this can cause a little desperation on your part. Initially, you may scold your pet for soiling in the house, but think before you do, as constant wetting could be a sign of **incontinence**. This basically means that your pet is unable to control when they urinate.

Urine is stored in the bladder until the body tells your pet it needs to wee, but if there is some failure within the waterworks system, then leakage occurs. It can happen at any age, in males and females and for a number of reasons.

Possible Causes of Incontinence

- Some animals can be born with a defective bladder and urinary tract.
- Urinary infections, stones, kidney disease or diabetes.
- For the senior citizen pets, sphincter muscles, which hold urine in the bladder, can weaken and then leakage occurs, especially while they are resting or sleeping.

If you notice one or more of these signs.....

- dribbling of urine
 - damp patches or soaking of bedding
 - skin irritation
 - wet fur/hair between hind legs or on stomach
 - constant licking around the genital area.....
- then please book an appointment to see the vet.

We will give your pet a thorough examination and possibly perform some tests, which will help us determine the cause. Once diagnosis has been made we can then begin the appropriate treatment.



Need More Meds for your Pet?

If you should require a repeat prescription for your pet, it is necessary for our staff to obtain authorisation from a vet. Time is needed to check medical records for the preparation and dispensing of medication. We are also constantly assessing the ways we can make our carbon footprint smaller, and one of the ways we have decided to do this is by reducing the frequency of deliveries from our suppliers to lower the emissions produced by having their vans on the road. We will be keeping our stock levels high enough to ensure that our daily demands are met, but it may mean that certain repeat prescription orders may take a day or two longer if items have to be ordered in. **We request that you please give a minimum of 72 hours notice to order a repeat prescription** to ensure there is no delay and your pet gets the medication they need. If your pet is on a long-term course of treatment with us, by law our vet must examine the patient at regular intervals. You may be asked to bring your pet for a meds check before further medications can be dispensed.

Orders can be processed on the phone or via our website on the following link: www.hungerfordvets.co.uk/repeat-prescriptions



The Veterinary Hospital
4 Bath Road
Hungerford RG17 0HE
01488 683999 24/7 Emergency
Belmont Veterinary Clinic
Salisbury Rd Business Park
Pewsey SN9 5PZ
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