

# Ask yourself.....



Is your cat drinking more water than usual?  
 Urinating frequently? Lethargic?  
 Lost weight despite an increased appetite?

These are common signs of **Diabetes Mellitus** and in the last few years we have seen an increase of this condition in cats. Causes can be ~  
**Obesity ~ Inactive lifestyle ~ Overeating**  
**Incorrect diet ~ Damaged pancreas**

Diabetes is when the body has difficulty in regulating blood sugar levels and if left untreated, your cat could become very poorly, as it can lead to a form of blood poisoning called ketosis.

### What goes wrong?

In the pancreas, cells produce insulin and if these fail to work, it affects sugar metabolism in the body. Sugar, in the form of glucose, is an essential part of digestion and energy. Insulin is required to help the utilisation of glucose by the liver from the bloodstream. If insulin levels are low, then glucose levels are excessively high and this affects metabolism. The kidneys then tip this 'waste sugar' into the urine.

If we suspect that your pet has diabetes, tests can be done to confirm the condition. **Treatment is available and although not curable, diabetes can be managed with medication and a special diet.** Your cat will need to visit us now and again, for a blood glucose curve, to check their sugar and insulin levels, plus we provide any support and help that you and your cat may require. Once regular treatment is in place, your cat should enjoy a good quality of life.

## Autumn Leaves

Who can resist running through a freshly raked pile of dry leaves, especially after you've watched someone else do all the hard work! There are some dogs who just love scattering all those leaves back around the garden or jumping out of the pile on their unsuspecting owners! Be careful, as dry leaves can be an irritant, and once they become old, damp and begin to rot, this provides the perfect breeding conditions for **mould spores and bacteria**. These can be harmful to your pets, and if inhaled may cause vomiting and diarrhoea. So once playtime is over, be sure to clear away dry leaves, and on walks discourage your dog away from those mushy piles!

For cats, **harvest mites** are a problem in the autumn months, so if you notice small orange/red flecks on the skin, then do pop them along for a check-up, as treatment will be required.

In early autumn, there is still some **highly toxic blue green water algae** about, which can be very quickly fatal if ingested. Do not let your dog near or drink the water if you see this and if you have a dog that loves swimming, avoid at all costs!



## DIY Time!

With pets, it is good to be prepared well in advance of the seasons. Although winter is a little way off yet, the pleasant autumn days provide the perfect opportunity to do some maintenance on your rabbit and guinea pig hutches ready for the cold winter weather conditions. For your furry friends that live outside, you must always ensure that materials used for their housing will not cause injury to your pets, and any preservation treatments are not toxic.



The ideal home must suit the number of pets you are keeping, their size, age and any medical conditions. **Housing needs to be - correctly sized to provide privacy and safety raised ~ secure ~ predator proof.**

**Ensure the housing is dry ~ strong ~ rainproof draught free ~ warm ~ has plenty of bedding.**

For **rabbits** they need to.....

1. Easily stand upon their hind legs
2. Lie fully outstretched
3. Make at least 3 consecutive hops
4. Turn around unhindered

For **guinea pigs** provide.....

1. Good sized housing
2. Dust free bedding
3. Places to hide
4. Separate sleeping area

Regularly inspect their housing for damage or hazards that require repair or removal. If not dealt with, these could injure your furry friends. NEVER place hutches in a garage used for vehicles; car fumes can be fatal to your pets.

For more detailed information visit

[www.rabbitwelfare.co.uk](http://www.rabbitwelfare.co.uk)  
[www.britishcavycouncil.org.uk/Welfare](http://www.britishcavycouncil.org.uk/Welfare)  
 or call our friendly team.

## 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

Sat 9am - 11.30am

**24/7 Emergency**

01488 683999

# Poor Paw

Those four paws have a lot of work to do for our pets! With endless walking, running, jumping, digging, scratching, balancing and catching prey, it is not surprising injuries occur and fairly often! Damage to pads, toes and claws can be very painful and cause great discomfort, so it is very important to frequently check your pets' paws for any problems, especially after exercise.

## Paw not so Perfect

**limping ~ holding up ~ redness ~ swelling  
chewing/licking ~ lumps/bumps**

Causes can be anything from a foreign object stuck in the paw to a puncture wound from a cat fight, so if you notice any of the above signs, call our friendly team for advice or bring your pet in for a check-up.



# Autumn Wasps

If your pet's paw becomes swollen, you might want to check if it is a wasp sting. During this season, wasp stings can happen more often, as these insects now spend a lot more time outside of the nest, as grub production has come to an end and they are now feeding on autumn fruit. Our curious pets just cannot resist snapping or pawing at and chasing buzzing wasps. The result usually being a nasty sting! Should you hear your pet suddenly yelp or start whining, licking or nibbling at their leg or paw and holding it up, these could be signs of a sting. Be watchful also of swellings around the face and mouth, as this could restrict breathing.



**Some animals, just like people are allergic to stings so contact us immediately if your pet**  
**\* has any kind of mouth/face swelling \* is drooling**  
**\* has difficulty breathing \* collapses**

Wasp stings are unpleasant and can cause difficulties, but please remember these insects, and also bees are part of our ecosystem, and **play an important role in pollination**, which helps our food supply. As with all animals, treat them with respect even though they sting!



The Veterinary Hospital  
4 Bath Road  
**Hungerford RG17 0HE**  
**01488 683999 24/7 Emergency**  
Belmont Veterinary Clinic  
Salisbury Rd Business Park  
**Pewsey SN9 5PZ**  
**01672 563413**



# Is Everything Covered?

With such busy lifestyles these days, something usually gets forgotten! Check out our list below, to help you maintain that all-important preventative healthcare.

## Primary Vaccinations needed or boosters overdue?

Protect your pet from illness and help keep infectious and often fatal diseases at a low level in the animal community. Vaccination appointments also provide the opportunity for a health check and a chat with the vet about your pet.

**Fleas Ticks and Worms** A year round problem that require regular and effective treatments. Please contact us so we can discuss which products will protect and suit your pet's lifestyle.

**Kennel Cough Vaccination Required?** If your dog is kennel boarding, then this intra-nasal protection will help to safeguard your pet against kennel cough, which is spread via airborne droplets and nose to nose contact.

**Teeth** Regular check-ups and brushing help to prevent tooth decay, gum disease and keep breath fragrant. If you would like our nurses to show you how to clean your pet's teeth, just call for an appointment.



*Fireworks screech and fizz  
in the winter night  
But have you thought they  
may be causing a fright  
To pets who are hiding  
under tables and stairs  
Nervous and bewildered  
at the sudden flares  
Spare a few moments to  
prepare a quiet place  
With toys treats blankets  
and a friendly face  
Play a game be happy  
don't scold fearful pets  
And remember help and  
advice are here at the vets*

