

# Autumn

The season will change and the leaves will begin falling, so check out our autumnal tips and warnings to keep your pets safe during these golden months.

**Beware of sleepy wasps** in rotting fruit on the ground....ouch sting!

**Halloween chocolate** and sweets - Keep out of reach....they are toxic to pets.

**Before lighting bonfires** .....check no hedgehogs are inside.

**Firework fright!** We have help and advice for your nervous pets.

**Conkers and acorns** contain aesculin/tannic acid ....toxic to dogs.

**Repair rabbit and guinea pig hutches** to..... keep them warm and dry in winter.

**Ensure your dog can be clearly seen** on dusky autumnal walks ....reflective vest/collar.

**Mushrooms and toadstools** ....difficult to know good from bad and some are highly toxic!

Orange/red flecks on your cat's skin could be **irritating harvest mites** .....treatment is required, so please call us.

**Ticks & fleas** are still around .....maintain those treatments.

**Damp and rotting leaves** contain mould spores and bacteria, which can be harmful to pets if ingested.

## Two Eyes.....

Our pets certainly do have a way of expressing their emotions with their eyes, showing us happiness at walk time or that 'please give me a biscuit look'!

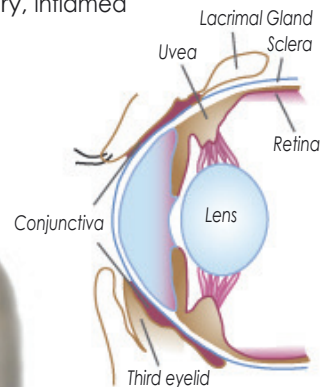
Your pet's eyes are very sensitive complex organs and have three main layers - **Sclera, Uvea and Retina**.

A **third eyelid** protects and acts as a windscreen wiper sweeping away debris. **The lacrimal (tear) gland** produces natural tears to keep the cornea moist, cleanse the eye and help to remove dirt.

Some pets develop a condition called **dry-eye** that occurs when the tear glands are damaged by the immune system, resulting in very little or no tear production. Although a permanent condition, there are treatments available to help preserve vision and ease the dryness.

**So look a little closer into your pet's eyes.**

- Is your cat or dog blinking excessively, frequently rubbing their eyes or keeping them closed more?
- Do the eyes look red, dry, inflamed or have a discharge?



*If you have concerns, please call for an appointment, where our vet can perform a quick and simple test to measure the tear production.*

*If dry-eye is diagnosed, we can discuss treatment to help your pet feel more comfortable.*

## 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

# ....Two Ears

The sound of the dog biscuit tin opening or the shake of the cat food box, and pets come running even if they are in the deepest of sleeps!



Their hearing is four times greater than us humans, is very sensitive and can detect higher frequency sounds. A cat and dog has many more muscles in their ears too, enabling them to raise, lower and tilt to pinpoint the actual direction and location where the sound is coming from. A cat can even independently rotate their ears, but no matter how amazingly our pets' ears perform, they can be prone to ear disease, also known as Otitis.

**Otitis** is a condition we see in our canine and feline friends, and at times is very painful and irritating. It can happen with any breed, but more so in those with floppy ears, hairy ear canals, dogs that swim regularly or have skin allergies.

**Otitis Externa** is when the external ear canal becomes inflamed, which can cause - **itching, redness or an unpleasant odour**. We need to look at your pet without delay, if you notice ...

- excessive head shaking or scratching
- a nasty smell coming from the ears
- thick dark wax or discharge

**Otitis Media** affects the middle part of the ear, which can be a little more difficult to treat, and at times may happen due to ongoing or untreated Otitis Externa.

# ....and a Nose

**olfaction** n. the act or capacity of smelling; the sense of smell.

Your dog's nose is an amazing piece of equipment! A human's primary sense is sight, but for canines it is the sense of smell that helps your pet understand the world they live in.

As a dog's nose hits the air, it can detect, taste and even remember minute odours, giving past and current neighbourhood news! A dog has the ability to breathe and smell at the same time. A fold of tissue inside the nose, helps split the airflow as it enters the nostrils, so that all the wonderful odours are diverted down one path for identification in the brain.

## Nose Facts

*Odour particles stick and accumulate inside the nose making the scent intense.*

*The area of a dog's brain that identifies all the smells, is about 40 times larger than a human's.*

*Scent (olfactory) receptors range from 125-300 million depending on the breed, compared to humans who have only 5-6 million.*

*Nostrils move independently, so informing the dog which direction the news is coming from!*

*A puppy has heat sensors in their nose, so Mum can be found in those early days of life when eyes and ears are closed.*

*Noses are generally cool and moist, which is caused by the mucus lining; a warm dry nose does not necessarily indicate illness, but any concerns contact your vet.*

*With this remarkable sense, dogs are now being trained to detect illness in humans, such as cancer and diabetes.*



Call us for more information on ear care.

**Nose Problems** Sneezing is natural, however if it becomes too regular or excessive, it is a good idea for us to check your pet.

**They may be suffering from**

an allergy to food, pollen, dust etc.  
an infection due to a dental or fungal problem.  
a possible tumour/polyp.

a foreign body e.g. a grass seed. We have even heard of paper clips, dead insects, tinsel, string and a 12cm stick removed from noses!

Any signs of a crusty nose, discharge or blood, then contact us immediately for advice.

**If you would like further information, do not hesitate to ask..... oh and if you thought you had a good hiding place for your dog's treats..... guess what?**

**Your pet already knows where they are!**



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

