

High Pressure Life

Cats normally appear quite relaxed creatures, but our feline friends can suffer from **hypertension**, more commonly known as high blood pressure. This can occur in those who have an underlying problem such as diabetes, over-active thyroid gland, heart or kidney disease. Older cats may also develop hypertension, and this can unfortunately cause sudden blindness, because the retina becomes damaged through high pressure in the blood vessels.

Take Precautions

Have your pet's blood pressure regularly monitored.

It is quick, easy and painless for your cat, and performed in a similar way to how a human's reading is taken. The inflatable cuff is placed on the paw or tail of your pet. The measuring instrument will get a precise reading, which if continuously high at each visit, may require further tests and investigations to diagnose any underlying problem that could be causing the hypertension. Once we know why, we can then begin the appropriate treatment.

If you notice your cat.....

eating more but losing weight - This could be a thyroid problem.
frequent drinking and urinating - Kidney troubles may be starting.

Really any signs of poor health or behavioural changes in your pet should always be checked out by a vet. Diagnosing a problem in the earlier stages, provides an improved start in treating and managing the condition to allow your pet a more enjoyable quality of life.

Please contact us if you would like more information on high blood pressure or if you have any concerns regarding your pet's health.

Merger means Better!

We greatly value all our clients and their pets, and aim to ensure that you both receive the highest quality of care, whichever clinic you choose to visit. Very dear to our hearts was our **Tidworth** branch, so it has been a very difficult decision to close the doors of this clinic after 30 years in the town. This was not taken upon lightly as there were so many factors to consider. Paramount though, was what was best for your much-loved pets. We could see that our team could offer so much more for the care of our patients from the excellent and superior facilities of our **Belmont Clinic, situated in Pewsey**, so the merger of the two sites has now taken place. We can't wait for our Tidworth clients to see our Belmont Clinic and all it has to offer! **From Tidworth, it's just a fifteen minute drive to Pewsey**, or if you prefer you can also visit our well-equipped **Hungerford** practice. If you have any queries regarding the changes, please do not hesitate to contact us and a member of our friendly team will help.



We look forward to welcoming all our Tidworth clients and their pets to our newly equipped Pewsey Clinic!



Hi there.... well 2018 is here and as always we're here too for your pets needs 24/7!

Well there were tears and hugs when our Tidworth branch closed (see article to the left), but followed by great happiness, as we are delighted that our most experienced receptionist **Lesley**, has made the move from Tidworth to Pewsey and extended her hours with us! Hurrah!

Also our lovely vet **Laura** is enjoying motherhood with her beautiful baby girl **Freya**, and we look forward to welcoming her back in practice later in the year.

See you all next issue....

Bucket



Laura and new baby Fraya experiencing the winter snow with a newly made friend.

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

www.hungerfordvets.co.uk



Tongue Twister

A dog's lolling pink tongue can look quite comical, but this part of the canine anatomy is actually a very powerful tool. It helps your pet to lap water, manipulate food, identify taste and texture, clean, regulate body temperature and is of course responsible for that very wet slobbery greeting across the face!

Tongue Talk Under the tongue is a band of tissue called the **frenulum**, which attaches it to floor of the mouth. Humans can boast 9,000 taste buds, but dogs have only around 1,700. Their buds situated on the tongue tip, are especially designed for tasting water. The slight roughness you can feel as your dog licks your hand, are the small surface bumps called **papillae**.

Built-In Air Conditioning! When a dog gets too hot, it cannot sweat through the skin, but can cool down a little via sweating through paw pads. The main source of lowering their body temperature is by panting, as this pulls air across the capillaries in the tongue, so helping cooler blood to circulate through the body. A tongue is also used as a form of communication between a mum and her puppies, to help create bonding.

What I find is mine!

The intriguing life of the great outdoors is wide open to your pets. By nature they are inquisitive creatures, so to play with and taste some of this life, is just too much for animals to ignore! The curiosity could cause problems for your pets, as there are potential hazards out there!

Poison is a harmful substance that your pet may ingest or absorb through their skin. It can cause anything from a minor stomach upset to heart and breathing problems, and may even be fatal.

Signs of poisoning include

**Drooling - Frothing - Panting - Twitching - Muscle tremors
Breathing problems - Vomiting - Diarrhoea - Fits - Lethargy
Increased heart rate and temperature**

Suspect your pet has ingested or absorbed a poisonous substance?

1. Contact or go to your vet immediately.
2. Unless told by your vet, **do not wait** - time is of the essence.
3. Try to identify what, when and how much.
4. If possible take the pack/source of any poison with you.

Old Food A small food bin for council collection or a compost heap; decomposing food produces mould, which releases poisonous mycotoxins. Ensure your pet cannot reach the bin or compost!

Chemicals Spring creates DIY jobs - terrace, BBQ and glass cleaners, bleach, paint solvents, varnishes, wood preservers and white spirit, include chemicals that are potentially dangerous to your cats and dogs. Substances on their coats can be ingested when grooming.

Rat/Mice Bait Many varieties are **highly dangerous**, e.g. one type prevents clotting of the blood. If your pet should ingest this, it can cause internal bleeding, which will only become visible as your pet worsens and begins to pass blood in their urine or faeces. Other signs include vomiting, diarrhoea and bleeding from the nose. Take care when using products to combat ant infestations, and **Metaldehyde** in snail/slug pellets is also extremely poisonous.

Safety Comes First

- Read safety instructions on home, garden, DIY and car products.
- Provide 'animal proof' storage.
- Remove pets from working area. Also keep your cat or dog away from areas recently treated with chemicals.

Become familiar with the types of products and natural problems that cause poisoning. We are also available for advice.



Be Careful It's a good idea to regularly check your pet's tongue and under it. Look out for any cuts, lumps, bumps or swellings and be aware that broken or sharp teeth may aggravate the tongue. Sticks can cause splinters and injuries, some quite horrific, so please think again before you throw a stick for Fido!

So all in all your dog's tongue is quite an amazing piece of equipment. One St Bernard holds the Guinness World Record for the longest dog tongue at 18.58cm! Get your tape measures out, maybe your dog can beat that!



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