

# 'Ello 'Ello What's This 'Ear Then?

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 incredibly 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.

**Please contact us if you have any concerns regarding your pet's health.**



## Arnold's Ailments

A common ear problem that also affects both dogs and cats are **Ear Mites**, and we had a visit the other day from one such dog.....

*Come in Arnold what seems to be the trouble?  
Eh what's that speak up Doc, did you say bubble?  
Oka-a-ay the vet said - this is going to be tricky  
No said Arnold my feet they're not sticky*

*You see the problem I've got it's my ears  
Itching madly, which brings me to tears!  
Oh said the vet - let me get my auroscope  
What's that you say Doc - have I met the Pope?*

*At that point Arnold's ears began to creep and crawl  
Causing him to scratch so madly and almost fall  
Try to sit still the vet said while I see what is wrong  
Really said Arnold there's no need to say I pong!*

*Right said the vet let me look down your ear  
Ah yes - now I can see them quite clear  
It's ear mites you have causing your pickle  
Soreness thick dark wax and yes they do tickle*

*Tiny ear mites like ear canals warm and snug  
Contact with infected dogs or cats and you get the bug  
Just some drops for a few days of this medication  
Should clear out those mites and soothe irritation*

*Phew what a relief I'll do what you say  
Said Arnold politely as he went on his way  
But before I do leave can I ask are you okay?  
'Cos you've said some really strange things today!*

## Hungerford on Hand 24/7

When your pets are poorly it can be a worrying time for you, but it is comforting to know that we are here to talk to and treat your pet if necessary. Pet Insurance can give some piece of mind in an emergency situation, knowing that costs incurred may be covered. However, we have noticed that some insurance companies are saying they include a 24 hour free vet helpline in their policy. Please be assured that here at Hungerford Vets, we have been providing one such free helpline for many years!

**Our 24 hour 7 days a week emergency line is available if your pet should become ill outside of normal working hours.** You will always find a nurse to answer your telephone call and a Veterinary Surgeon 'on duty'. **We kindly ask that non-emergency calls are only made during normal opening hours**, as our staff do take the opportunity to sleep when they are not dealing with emergencies.



## 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

# On the Move

A new home is exciting for you.....but for your cat? Well their secure and sedate world is about to be turned upside down! Cats are territorial creatures that like a daily routine, which helps provide the security and happiness they need. So it can be quite a traumatic experience for your cat when all this suddenly changes!

**With some forward planning, there are steps you can take before, during and after the move, to help your pet confidently settle into their new home.**

## Before Moving

### Ensure your cat is microchipped!

Existing chip? Then update their records with your new details.

**Cat carrier** Encourage your cat to 'make friends' with the carrier. Place it in a quiet room, with comfy bedding inside and a piece of your clothing. This provides a secure and familiar scent. Allow your cat free access to the carrier.

### Moving day has arrived!

Know where your cat is, so keep it indoors! Place your pet and the carrier in a quiet room, with a litter tray, food and drinking water. Ensure the windows and doors of the room are shut. Stick a 'do not let cat out of room' notice on the door!

## The New House

The key is to make your pet feel safe and minimise stress.

**Choose a quiet room** with recognizable items from your previous home, plus familiar bedding, toys, scratching post, a litter tray, food, water and some treats.

**Ensure windows are firmly shut** and if the door has a lock.... lock it! Stick that sign on the door again as a reminder to everyone!

**When all is safe and cosy**, open the carrier door. Allow your cat to come out in their own time. Provide gentle, happy attention and food for reassurance. **Later when it's calmer**, and ALL the windows and doors of the entire house are firmly shut, you can then gradually introduce your cat to their new home.

**Scent Marking** As your cat investigates, do not stop the head and body 'rubbing' against furniture, doors etc. They are doing their own 'new home furnishing' by leaving their scent for security.

**The Big Outdoors** Keep indoors for at least 3-4 weeks, but each cat is different, so judging exactly the right time can sometimes be difficult. It's all about building confidence, establishing a new routine and the new house as a focal point.

**Begin with short periods of time outdoors and close to the house.**

**Accompany them for reassurance.**

**You could use a harness lead.**

**Allow your cat to scent mark fences, bushes etc.**

**Coincide trips outside with feed times.**

*It will help your cat to connect the house with you and feeding.*

**We are always here to help, so do contact us for more information and advice.**

## Are you a Cleaner or a Leaver?



**All dogs poo!** There we have said it, and as dog owners, if your pet should poo in a public place or even in your own garden, it is your responsibility to ensure that it is cleaned away and disposed of correctly. Most owners do, but very sadly there are the few who do not. To leave dog faeces is a health hazard and you can be fined. All dog poo contains bacteria, and humans, in particular young children, are at risk from toxocariasis, which is

an infection of the round worm **Toxocariasis Canis**. There are two types of infection; one causes liver inflammation, abdominal pain and high temperature and the other visual impairment of the eye and in severe cases blindness. Around Hungerford, there are 15 dog poo bins, so for the sake of our health and environment, we urge you to please make good use of them. We also have bins at both surgeries too!

You can also help reduce the risks by

- worming your dog every 3 - 6 months
- use an effective prescription wormer from a veterinary surgery
- whenever and wherever your dog poos scoop it and dispose of correctly
- NEVER allow your dog into children's play areas

Another aspect of responsible dog ownership is to be aware of the farm livestock and horses in your area.

While walking your dog, should you come across these, please keep your dog on a lead. This special request comes from a local farmer, as sadly his sheep and horses have recently been the victims of attacks and also being chased.

**We thank you for your understanding on these two important aspects of being a responsible dog owner. If you would like further information or advice on pet ownership, please do not hesitate to contact us.**



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

