

# Healthier and Longer Lives



## How old is your pet in human years?

Well an approximate example is a 1-year-old dog or cat is 15 in our years. Each year the number of human years in relation decreases, so do not panic, you won't have a 10-year-old pet that is 150 human years old! Even though ageing is inevitable, always remember there is so much we can do to keep your pets healthy and enjoying a good quality of life as they become older. A combination of regular exercise, preventative healthcare, a good diet, along with the ever-increasing advancement of medical and surgical care, can help your pets live much healthier and longer lives.

## Blood Screening Profile

A busy river of red liquid flows through your pet's body, distributing oxygen and nutrients, fighting infections and collecting waste. **Blood** carries a wealth of information about your pet's health. Here at our surgery, we can do a full blood screening profile to help detect signs of disease and organ dysfunction. There are many conditions and problems that can be diagnosed in the earlier stages, which provides an improved start in treatment to help your pet enjoy a healthier life.

The process is almost the same as for humans and is generally quick and simple. For our furry pets though, we shave a little of their hair, then a fine needle is inserted into a vein from where a small amount of blood is taken. A nurse will hold and reassure your pet during the process.

## Identify-Diagnose-Treat

The blood screening profile is done in-house using our advanced diagnostic equipment to provide rapid results. If the test shows that your pet is developing a condition of any kind, your vet can discuss with you the many forms of treatment that modern veterinary medicine now provides. Not all conditions can be cured, but treatments can help to improve your pets' quality of life.

**If you are interested in a blood screening profile for your pet, please contact us for further information.**

## Don't be Mistaken!

Fleas and ticks are a problem for our pets who should be protected from these parasites, but **great care has to be taken as to what product you use, and which pets you use it on.**

Cats and dogs may both have four legs, two ears, a nose and a tail, but **they are different species.** The flea treatment you have just bought to treat your pets, might have the same name, but the ingredients will differ from a cat to a dog. This is why **you must ensure the one you buy for your cat is labelled cat.**

**NEVER** apply a dog flea and tick treatment to your cat. **Using the incorrect product on your cat can be fatal,** and sadly there have been fatalities because a dog product was applied to a cat.

An ingredient called **Permethrin** is found in some dog flea and tick treatments, but **this is toxic to cats.** Permethrin is very old fashioned, and just because it says on the label that it kills ticks, fleas and worms, it does not always work! **Fipronil,** which is in many flea products, is also a lot less effective than it was in the 1990s when first available. There are much better treatments 30 years on. **Many products available 'over the counter' in pet shops and supermarkets, just don't work.** Flea shampoos are a waste of time, as are most flea collars. Many households have a cat and dog living together. So if you are about to apply any flea and tick product on your dog, please be aware that spot on products or sprays will be wet on their coat, and could be transferred to your cat should the two pets mix. Ensure you keep the cat and dog separate until the coat is fully dry.

## Parasite Prevention in Cats and Dogs

There are many products available for preventing fleas and ticks, such as spot-ons, tablets, collars and sprays, so when choosing, ensure the product is:-

- ✓ **Suitable and safe for the species**
- ✓ **Effective** ✓ **Correctly administered**

Carefully read the pack for ingredients, warnings and instructions. Do not use if past the expiry date. If you are unsure as to what

products are safe for your cat or dog, how you should apply them and when, then always check and get professional advice from your veterinary surgery before applying the product to your pet.



## 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

# Neutering your Feline Friend

Our hearts melt when we see those cute wide-eyed kittens, but did you know that within a few months, these little ones can actually produce babies of their own? However, there is the option to neuter your kitten, which has many health and social advantages for your pet.

**A Male Cat (Tom)** begins to mature at around 5 - 8 months old, and starts to spray strong smelling urine to mark and protect their territory. He will also roam in search of females in season, and on meeting other male cats will fight, which can cause major bites, torn ears, deep scratches and possible infection. There is the added risk of the potentially fatal Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (cat aids) and Feline Leukaemia Virus, which can be transmitted via bites and scratches.

**Neutering helps to:** ● reduce roaming ● spraying ● aggression ● fighting ● injury ● limit the spread of fatal disease ● stop unwanted litters of kittens

**Female Cat (Queen)** can begin their seasons and 'call' at approximately 6 months old, so although still a kitten, she will probably get pregnant! Seasons are every three weeks during the spring and summer months. She is capable of 2/3 litters each year of her life, with around 3/4 kittens (but can be more) in each litter. No sooner has she delivered her babies, she will then begin another season and try to get pregnant again! There is also the risk of fatal disease through close contact with unvaccinated males.

**Neutering will:** ● end seasons and calling ● prevent pregnancies ● stop unwanted litters of kittens ● help limit the spread of disease ● prevent womb infection and mammary tumours

**The Operation** Neutering is quite a routine procedure. Your pet will receive the best care possible here at our surgery. He or she will require an anaesthetic for the operation, and a nurse will monitor their breathing

throughout the procedure. They will generally be back to normal within a day or two, but it can take six weeks after the operation for the male to become infertile.

*If you would like to know more, please contact us.*



## Congratulations

To our Vet **Stef Weir** who gave birth to the lovely baby girl Penny earlier in the year. Both are doing really well, and Stef will be back consulting in June.



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



## Fun in the Sun

Are you a new pet owner looking forward to the first summer with your friend? You can enjoy pleasant evening walks in the park with your dog, watch your cat relax on a shady terrace or your rabbits and guinea pigs frolic in their outdoor runs. After last year's scorcher, we urge **ALL pet owners** to be well prepared in case temperatures soar again.

**Heat NEVER** leave your pet in the car, not even with the windows open. **They will cook!**

**NEVER** leave your pets in closed conservatories, they reach oven-like temperatures!

Ensure your pets have access to fresh clean drinking water. We have collapsible travel bowls in the surgery.



Watch out for hot pavements or roads as dogs' pads can burn!

Take extra care with pets who have long/thick coats, are overweight, elderly, have breathing problems or a heart condition.

**Sun** Exercise your dogs in the cooler morning or evening air.

Regulate time in the sun and heat, as heatstroke/dehydration happens very quickly and can be fatal.

Sunblock the tips of white cats' ears and noses. Ask our team for details.

Provide access to shady, cooler areas in and outdoors.

**Gardens** Store and use all garden products carefully, as pets do sniff and eat strange items.

Stolen BBQ bones and corn husks can get lodged in the mouth, throat, stomach and intestines.

Bee and wasp stings can cause allergic reactions; some serious. Call us for advice if your pet is stung or you see swellings on their paws, face or mouth.

Provide shade for your guinea pig and rabbit runs, and place away from plants as some can be very poisonous to your pets if eaten.

Check rabbits' bottoms daily for flies and maggots.

**Flystrike can sadly be fatal.**

