

Feline Friends

Cats are lovely pets, very affectionate, and during summer our feline friends take great enjoyment basking in the warm sunshine. Some cats like to be around their home and garden all the time, while others are much more independent and will explore the great outdoors. Most cats have their own daily routine to follow, and as pet owners we get used to this routine, but with our busy lifestyles, we may not notice slight changes in our cat's habits, behaviour or general health. Take a look at the chart below, and if you notice any of the signs in your cat, then don't delay in bringing your feline friend in for a check-up, so we can identify the problem and administer any necessary treatment.

Condition	Signs
Abscesses	Excessive licking of an area Swelling - Redness An open wet wound
Arthritis	Reluctance to jump/exercise Limping/stiffness when walking
Dental	Bad breath - Difficulty eating Drooling - Weight loss
Diabetes	Drinking and urinating more Weight loss - Increased appetite
FLUTD <i>(feline lower urinary tract disease)</i>	Difficulty/pain urinating Urinating in odd places Blood in urine - Behavioural changes
Hyperthyroidism	Increase in appetite and drinking Weight loss - Vomiting
Obesity	Weight gain Reluctance to exercise/jump Less or no self grooming



These are just a few of the conditions we come across. However there are others that may show similar signs, so please do call us for an appointment so we can diagnose exactly what the problem is so as to help your cat regain their health to happily enjoy their daily routine again!

Seaside Safety Tips

Dogs just go wild at the beach! Please take a little care while there to avoid any upsets or accidents.

Beach

- Watch for your dog **swallowing sand** as he or she catches the ball that has rolled along the beach. Sand easily sticks to the intestines and is very difficult to remove.
- Rinse away sand with fresh water from in between toes and pads. Brush off sand from coats as it is an **irritant to your pet's skin**.
- Stop your dog eating 'treasures' from the beach. Picnic leftovers, dead marine life etc. can contain **dangerous/deadly toxins**. Discarded fisherman's hooks with bait also pose a painful and serious danger.



Sea

- Stop your dog drinking sea water. It's salty and along with nasty sea parasites and microorganisms, it **can make your pet vomit**.
- Always remember the sea is a powerful element! Tides, undercurrents and waves can take the most confident dog by surprise.
- Consider a life vest for water loving dogs.

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

Summer Stingers!



If your pet's paw suddenly becomes swollen, you might find that your dog or cat has been stung! During the warmer weather, wasp and bee stings can happen more often as there are plenty of our buzzing friends occupying the air space and busying around gardens. For our curious pets, the buzzing and quick movement is just too much to resist a good old snap, paw and chase at these buzzing insects. The result sometimes being a nasty sting! Should you suddenly hear your pet yelp, yowl or start whining, licking or nibbling at their leg or paw and holding it up, or shaking their head excessively, these could be signs of a sting!

Please be watchful of any swellings, but particularly 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....

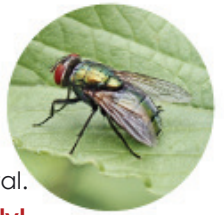
- has any kind of mouth/face swelling ● is drooling
- has difficulty breathing ● collapses

Insect stings can be very unpleasant, painful and may cause difficulties, but please remember these insects are part of our ecosystem, and play an important role in pollination. As with all living creatures, treat them with respect even though they might sting!

Hopping along to another problem during the warmer months -

Flystrike

When a rabbit's hindquarters become wet, dirty and sore, flies are attracted to this area, where they can lay eggs. The hatching maggots will then literally feed on the rabbit's skin and underlying tissue. **Flystrike is a very serious and painful condition**, which requires immediate veterinary treatment, as sadly it can often be fatal.



Flystrike is a real emergency, so please do contact us quickly!

Help to protect your rabbit

- At least once a day fully inspect their hindquarters to ensure they are clean, dry, egg and maggot free. ● Clean hutches frequently.
- Remove soiled bedding and waste material daily.

If your rabbit appears to have a regular rear end soiling problem, bring bunny along for a check-up. Overgrown teeth and claws or obesity may be preventing your rabbit from grooming properly. We can also advise on the protective sprays, which are available.



Staff in the Spotlight!

We welcome a new team member Veterinary Surgeon **Emma Pritchard BVSc MRCVS** who we sat in the quick fire question seat to find out more.....

Hello Emma.....when did you qualify?

I qualified from Liverpool in 2019 and have been working in Newbury since then. Currently I consult and do surgery at Hungerford's main hospital.

What's the best part of being a vet?

Seeing new cases everyday..... you just never know what is going to arrive and I particularly enjoy surgery.

Your first ever pet?

A Black Labrador called Sam and well known for eating Easter eggs and Christmas cake!

Pet you would most like to own?

Well I already have it!

A Wirehaired dachshund

What's your favourite drink?

I love an Espresso Martininand

your favourite snack?

That's easy.....anything chocolate related or potatoes in any form!

Give us one thing from your bucket list. To travel to as many countries as possible.



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