

Take Comfort

In these rather unsettling times, we would like to give you some reassurance that your pet will receive the very best care and attention from our team here at Hungerford Vets. We understand just how important your much-loved pets are to you, and should he or she require treatment that involves a general anaesthetic, it is only natural that you may feel anxious on the day of your pet's procedure. Every hour your pet is away from you can seem like a day as you await our call. So to calm your nerves and help you to understand what is happening to your pet when they have a procedure, we are going to take you on a journey through their anaesthetic.

Always remember that your pet will be totally unaware of their surgery and feel no pain, as they will be fast asleep!

Before

Your pet will have a health examination, and in some cases a pre-anaesthetic blood test, which will highlight any underlying problems that might increase any potential risks. This also helps the vet to decide on a suitable anaesthetic for your pet's age and health.

The 4 Stages of Anaesthesia

Our kind and compassionate team reassure your pet all the way, and he or she will be closely monitored by our trained staff throughout the process.

1. Pre-Anaesthetic Some patients can be a little anxious, so we administer a calming and relaxing pre-operative medication.

2. Induction We shave a small area on the front foreleg where we inject the anaesthetic drug into a small vein. Gradually our patient becomes anaesthetised.

3. Maintenance A tube is passed down the windpipe, which is connected to the anaesthetic machine that passes a mix of gases and vaporised drugs via the tube. Your pet's breathing and heart rate are constantly monitored.

4. Recovery Once their procedure is complete, the anaesthetics are stopped and soon your pet will begin to wake up. We constantly observe, comfort and reassure our patient during this time, keeping them safe, warm and comfortable until they are fully conscious and ready to go home.

We hope this information has put your mind a little more at rest if your pet should require an anaesthetic.

Further information is available from our team, who will be more than happy to answer all your queries.



Has your cat had their 'flu' jab yet?



Chilly winter mornings and we would probably all rather stay under the duvet, especially if we have a winter cold or worse still the flu. For our cat community, 'cat flu' is out there in any season. An infected cat can transmit flu into the feline environment via discharge from eyes, nose and in their saliva, which may then infect other unvaccinated cats. A cat will feel quite poorly and uncomfortable. It may have difficulty eating or drinking, due to a blocked nose, sore throat or mouth ulcers, which may then lead to dehydration.

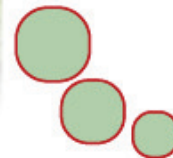
There are two flu types

- 1. Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis**
sneezing ~ coughing ~ fever
nasal and eye discharge.
Permanent damage may even occur to the delicate nose lining.
- 2. Feline Calicivirus** ...less severe, but cats often develop **painful mouth ulcers** and may suffer recurring gingivitis (red, swollen and painful gums).

If you notice your cat sneezing more than usual, has a runny nose, sore eyes with discharge and generally unwell, please call us for advice.

Vaccination is available for cat flu, and other infectious diseases to protect your feline friends. If your pets' vaccinations have lapsed they can be restarted. Just speak with a member of our friendly team for further information.

Got Enough? Just a reminder that if your pet requires medication or other pet supplies over the holiday season, **please do order well in advance**. The surgery and our suppliers opening hours vary during this period, so please call us with your order to ensure your pet's cupboard is topped up before Christmas Eve!



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

www.hungerfordvets.co.uk

Cat Behaviour



Have you just returned from shopping and your cat jumps up to greet you and pushes its face against you? If the answer is yes....well you've just been 'marked' as part of your cat's territory!

Cats are very territorial creatures and love to be sure what belongs to them as this gives a feeling of security and contentment. You may have seen your cat rub their cheeks or side of their body along a wall, a piece of furniture and much to their surprise, even your dog too! New objects that appear in your house, well they may also receive the same treatment. Your feline friend is 'marking' areas with pheromones, which are produced in their cheeks and body skin. These pheromones are a familiarity scent for your cat of their environment. So next time you see your cat displaying this behaviour, you will know what they are saying 'this is mine!'



What kind of fish goes well with ice-cream? Jellyfish!

Ask us about the wide range of well-balanced nutritious cat food we stock.

What is a dog's favourite day of the week? Chewsdays!

We have lots of advice about safe and healthy treats for your dog to chew on!

Remember fleas are a year round problem, so it's important to maintain your pet's parasite treatments. If you would like more information please call our friendly team.

What did the flea say to his wife as they came out of the movies? Shall we walk or take the cat?



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

Winter Ways

Cuddles with your pet by the log fire, comfort food, cosy jumpers and brrr..... early morning scraping ice from the car windscreen, are just a few things that mean it's winter! This cold and also festive season, brings a few hazards for our pets, so please do take great care to avoid any accidents!

Keep your dog on a lead when walking close to **frozen ponds and rivers**.

Fireworks can cause some pets much distress. We have plenty of help for nervous pets and advice for their owners, so please do contact us.

The festive season means there are more rechargeable and regular **batteries** around, which **are extremely dangerous if chewed or swallowed** by your pet. Call us immediately if you think your pet has been in contact with or swallowed a battery.

Plenty of **chocolate** too during the festive season, but it contains theobromine, which is **poisonous to dogs and cats**, so store it well out of their reach!

Supervise all pets near **open fires and log burners**.

Turkey carcass bones are sharp when broken and can get lodged in the throat and stomach. Please do not feed them to your pet!



Small pets living outside require **extra warm dry bedding**, regular checks and unfrozen drinking water.

Mince pies and Christmas cake contain **raisins**, which can be toxic to dogs if ingested....grapes too!

Antifreeze for cars tastes sweet to pets, but is **potentially fatal if swallowed**. Please clear away any spills and don't let your pet drink from puddles.

Liquid Nicotine in vaping equipment and e-cigarettes is **highly toxic to cats and dogs**. Pets can very quickly become seriously ill if they ingest just a small quantity, as liquid nicotine is more rapidly absorbed into the body. Do not leave this equipment in easy reach of your pets!

Mistletoe, its berries and poinsettias, can cause problems if chewed or eaten by your pet. Any signs of stomach upset, breathing difficulties, itching or swelling, then contact us immediately!



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