

## WELCOME TO CLAWS & PAWS

### Paxton Vets Newsletter

Here you'll find great advice, offers for you and your pet, news, hints & tips, seasonal advice and much, much more!

## PRACTICE NEWS

### THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL CLIENTS 🙏



A huge thank you to all our wonderful clients for your patience and understanding during the pandemic.

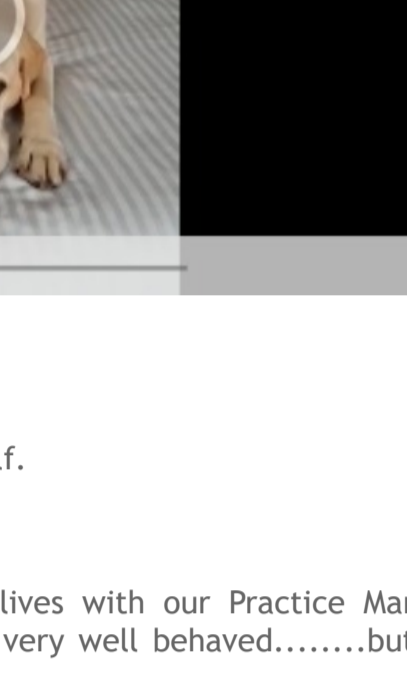
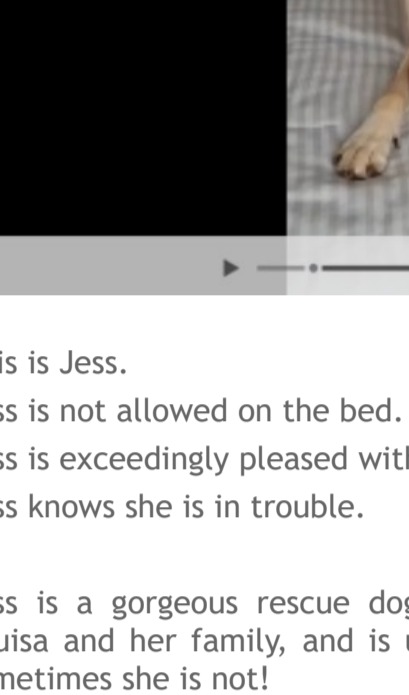
For the past 3 months we have not been able to have clients inside the clinics due to social distancing measures, and this has changed how we have been able to work considerably. However, these changes have meant that we have been able to stay open each and every day throughout this difficult time, and be here to provide Veterinary care for our local community.

Our staff have been under a huge amount of time pressure each day, as each interaction has taken far longer than previously, so we apologise if there have been delays. We were not permitted to carry out any routine surgery or vaccinations for a few months during the height of the pandemic, so we are currently working our way through the backlog of these.

We are in the midst of making preparations to have clients back into the Clinics soon, and in get back to normality over the coming months!

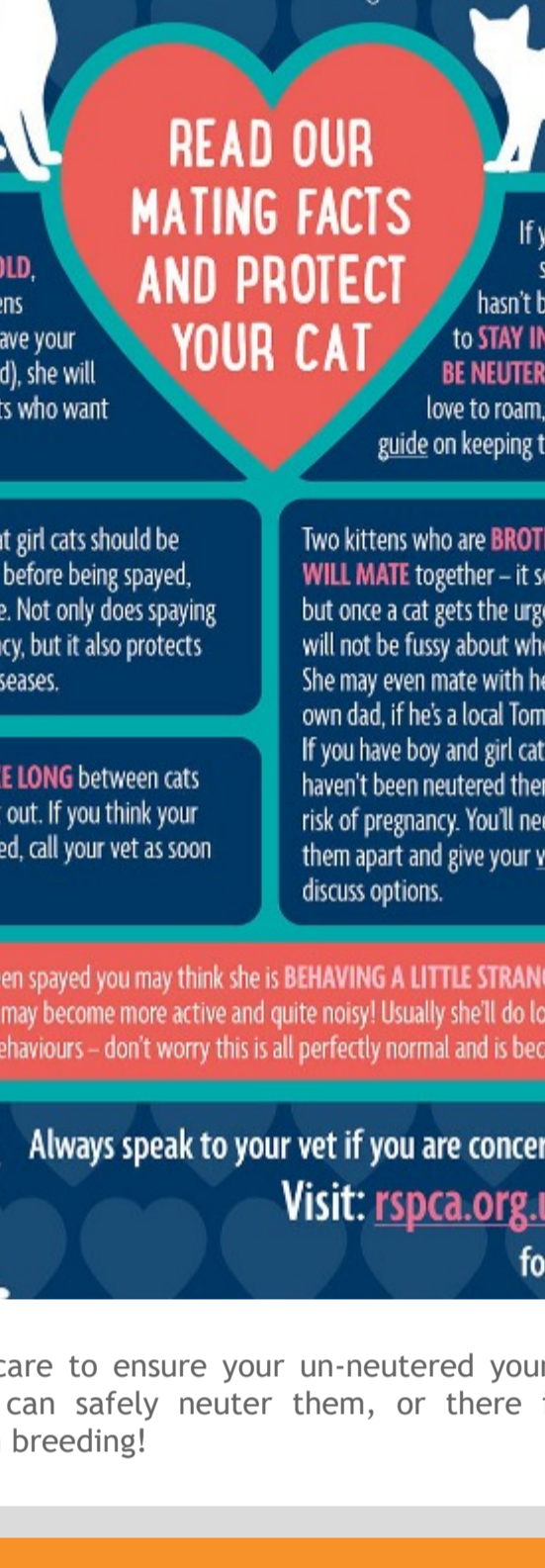
### THANK YOU

### WELL DONE HANNAH 🐾



Kudos to Hannah, our Animal Care Assistant, for chasing this poor fox around her neighbourhood for an entire evening, until she finally caught him and was able to remove the plastic bottle from his face! He's one lucky fox

### OUR VET NURSES REALLY ARE AMAZING

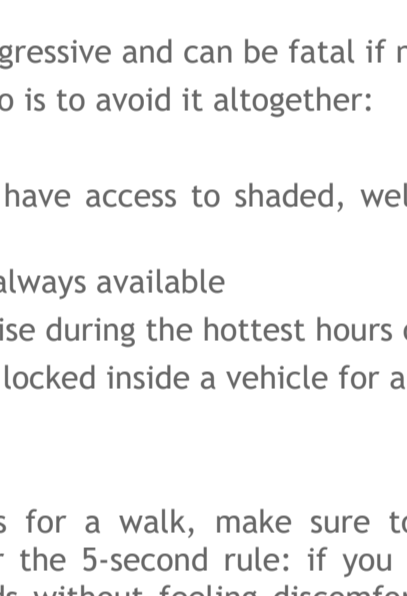


They have been rushed off their feet during the pandemic; often needing to do 5 things at once to ensure the smooth running of the Clinics during this incredibly busy and stressful time for the team.

Simone was snapped while managing to answer our non stop phone lines, hold onto a puppy, sort out it's flea and worm treatment, clear up the wee it had done on the floor and book it's next appointment!

### VET NURSES ARE SUPER HEROES !!

### THIS IS JESS.

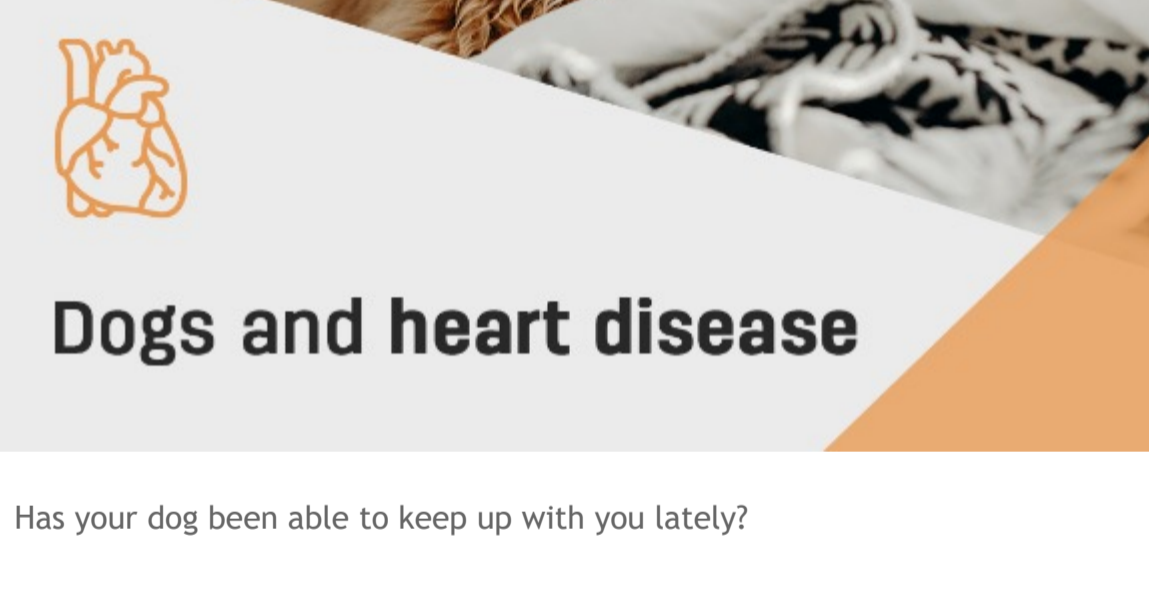


This is Jess.  
 Jess is not allowed on the bed.  
 Jess is exceedingly pleased with herself.  
 Jess knows she is in trouble.

Jess is a gorgeous rescue dog who lives with our Practice Manager Louisa and her family, and is usually very well behaved.....but just sometimes she is not!

..... has your dog done anything a little bit naughty during lockdown????!!!!!!

### 💕💕💕 LOVE IS IN THE AIR !!! 💕💕💕



### READ OUR MATING FACTS AND PROTECT YOUR CAT

From April to September is when most kittens are born and many of these litters are unplanned. This year, with lockdown rules meaning getting your cat neutered is more difficult than normal, cats are at greater risk of unwanted pregnancies.

Cats can get pregnant from **FOUR MONTHS OLD**, while they are just kittens themselves. Until you have your girl cat spayed (neutered), she will be pestered by male cats who want to mate with her.

If your boy cat hasn't been snipped and your girl cat hasn't been spayed they'll need to **STAY INSIDE UNTIL THEY CAN BE NEUTERED**. We know many cats love to roam, so check our indoor cat guide on keeping them healthy and happy.

You may have heard that girl cats should be allowed to have a litter before being spayed, but this simply isn't true. Not only does spaying protect against pregnancy, but it also protects your cat from deadly diseases.

Two kittens who are **BROTHER AND SISTER WILL MATE** together – it sounds strange but once a cat gets the urge to mate she will not be fussy about who she does it with! She may even mate with her own dad, if he's a local Tom. If you have boy and girl cats who haven't been neutered there is a high risk of pregnancy. You'll need to keep them apart and give your vet a call to discuss options.

**MATING DOESN'T TAKE LONG** between cats so it's easy to be caught out. If you think your cat may have been mated, call your vet as soon as possible.

If your girl cat hasn't been spayed you may think she is **BEHAVING A LITTLE STRANGELY** when she is ready to mate or 'in heat'. She may become more active and quite noisy! Usually she'll do lots of rubbing, rolling and attention seeking behaviours – don't worry this is all perfectly normal and is because of her hormones.

Always speak to your vet if you are concerned about your cat. Visit: [rspca.org.uk/coronavirus](https://www.rspca.org.uk/coronavirus) for more information.

Please do take care to ensure your un-neutered young cats are kept inside until we can safely neuter them, or there is the very real prospect of them breeding!

## ENJOYING SUMMER WITH YOUR PETS



### Enjoying Summer WITH YOUR PETS

Make sure you are prepared to enjoy Summer with your pets!

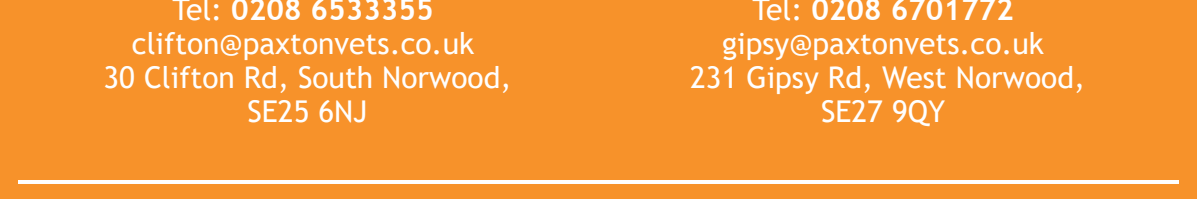
🦋 Heatstroke 🦋  
 Heatstroke is rapidly progressive and can be fatal if not treated in time. The best thing you can do is to avoid it altogether:

- \* Guarantee your pets have access to shaded, well-ventilated areas at all times
- \* Ensure fresh water is always available
- \* Avoid walks and exercise during the hottest hours of the day
- \* Never leave your pets locked inside a vehicle for any amount of time

🐾 Burns 🐾  
 Before taking your dogs for a walk, make sure to check the pavement's temperature. Remember the 5-second rule: if you can't hold your hand on the ground for 5 seconds without feeling discomfort, it isn't hot safe for your pets to walk in it.  
 If your pet is a fan of sunbathing, apply pet-safe sunscreen to sensitive areas to avoid sunburns.

🐝 Insect stings 🐝  
 Curious pets are likely to want to play with bees and wasps that can be flying around. Unfortunately, the playing isn't mutual! Insect stings can cause severe allergic reactions, so make sure you keep your pets away from these winged creatures.

## DOGS AND HEART DISEASE



### Dogs and heart disease

Has your dog been able to keep up with you lately?

A common sign of heart issues in dogs is the inability to keep up with regular exercise, and the development of fatigue. This can easily be overlooked in senior animals, as owners may associate it with old age. Other signs include an increased respiratory rate, coughing, and even collapse.

There are a number of diseases that can compromise cardiac function in dogs, including:

- ♥ Problems with the heart muscle
- ♥ Anatomic defects
- ♥ Alteration of the heart valves
- ♥ Tumours
- ♥ Infectious diseases
- ♥ Alterations in the organs that surround the heart

If you recognise any of the signs mentioned above, talk to us. If your pet has a cardiac condition, it is very important to diagnose it as soon as possible and start treatment.

If your dog has already been diagnosed with a heart condition, please keep in mind that they're more susceptible to suffer from heatstroke!

## CAN CATS GET SUNBURNS?



### CAN CATS GET SUNBURNS?

Just like ourselves, cats can get sunburns from exposure to the ultraviolet rays of the sun ☀️🐾

Skin pigmentation and hair tend to provide a certain level of protection. As such, pets with white coats, short hair or hairless are usually more susceptible to sun damage.

The ears, the nose, the skin around the eyes and the back are usually the most affected areas, and for cats that enjoy laying on their backs, so is the belly.

If your cat has a sunburn, his or her skin will be red, hot to the touch and may be flaking. Sunburns may also cause itching and be painful. Frequent sunburns can even lead to the development of skin tumours, such as squamous cell carcinoma.

To protect your pets, they must have access to shaded areas at all times where they can escape from the sun. Particularly sensitive animals will also benefit from pet-safe sunscreen being applied to sensitive areas.

If you're concerned about sunburn, don't hesitate to talk to us!

## WE'D LOVE THIS NEWSLETTER TO BE ABOUT YOU & YOUR PET TOO...

- Have you got a story to tell?
- Would you love to see an answer to a question?
- We'd love to see a photo of your pet that we can share
- Have they been brave lately... have they survived an accident or illness?

Please email to

[clifton@paxtonvets.co.uk](mailto:clifton@paxtonvets.co.uk)

OR

Post directly to our

[Facebook Page](#)

**We so want these stories... Please tell us!**



### DOG TRIVIA

Dogs have a sense of time. It's been proven that they know the difference between an hour and five. If conditioned to, they can predict future events, such as regular walk time.



### CAT FACT

Grooming stimulates blood flow to the skin, regulates body temperature, and helps them relax.



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