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Contact Details

03 9584 2511

clinic@cheltenham.com



MEET OUR NEW TEAM MEMBER MARIA - VETERINARY NURSE.

We are delighted to have a new member who has just joined our team at Cheltenham Veterinary Clinic. Introducing MARIA who is an experienced veterinary nurse. She will extend a warm welcome when you bring your fur baby into the clinic and you can relax knowing Maria offers professional veterinary assistance. Like the rest of our team, she has that quiet confidence required when dealing with animals that are sick or in pain, and she inspires trust in both the patient and the owners. Next time you are visiting, make sure you introduce yourself and your pet to Maria, as she is looking forward to meeting you all.

TIP: Heartworm is exceedingly difficult to treat and can be fatal for your dog. Prevention is as easy as one tablet per month for peace of mind. Talk to us [about prevention](#) for your pet.



CHELtenham Veterinary Clinic

Brrr, it is cold outside! The wind is icy, the temperatures are low, but with two months down and only one to go, it makes winter tolerable. August is always a cold month, and humans and pets may be tempted to pull the blankets over their heads rather than get up and go for a walk. But even short-haired dogs have no excuse as there are some very stylish pet coats and jackets to help them cope with winters chills. The brisk air can be invigorating, it certainly wakes one up as you must move to keep warm. Keep older pets warm and protected from the cold. Some adjustments may need to be made to their diet, perhaps a little more to eat to keep them strong. There are a lot of games you can play indoors with your cat or dog, so get creative and give them a workout indoors while the rain pelts down outside and remember – spring is nearly here! The cold hasn't slowed the virus, which is still plaguing us, but we are getting through these difficult times so keep warm and keep safe.



HOW TO GET YOUR PET TO TAKE THEIR MEDICINE.

Cats and dogs seem to know immediately when we are trying to get them to take their medicine. So, what can you do? Try using a tasty piece of sausage to hide the pill in. Most dogs tend to gulp their food, so this will work, but cats are more suspicious. Crushing the pill into peanut butter, hiding it in a bit of tasty cheese or perhaps a bit of canned salmon, or using some other strong-smelling food that is enticing will help. Using a tasty piece of sausage to hide the pill in can help. Hiding a crushed pill in a bowl containing both wet and dry food for a fast eating pet may help. Check around the bowl afterwards in case your sneaky pet has detected the medicine and spat it out!

PETS SUFFER FROM TARTAR ON THEIR TEETH TOO.

Deposits of tartar affect your pet's health in many ways. From stinky bad breath to bleeding of the gums, infections, abscesses, dental disease, and possible loss of teeth. But what is tartar? It is the thin brownish-yellow layer that is visible on your pet's teeth that is up around the gum line. If tartar is not removed regularly by brushing (every 2-3 days) it will mix with bacteria and the minerals in the saliva will calcify which forms the hardy layer of tartar that we often see in pets. As it builds up eating can become painful for your pet and their health can deteriorate rapidly. To keep tartar under control your pet needs a good healthy diet, plenty of dental chews, chewy toys, and regular brushing. The earlier you can teach your pet to enjoy their teeth being brushed the easier it will be to do. Never use human toothpaste, you can get a special pet toothpaste that is designed for their system and they like the taste. Make sure you book a [regular dental check](#) with us to ensure the health of your pet's teeth. This will prevent other diseases from becoming established as poor dental health can lead to serious health issues.

TIP: Healthy teeth make a healthy pet. Schedule in a [regular check up](#) at our clinic to ensure your pets teeth (and breath) stay fresh and bright.

“Animals are sentient, intelligent, perceptive, funny and entertaining. We owe them a duty of care as we do to children” Michael Morpurgo.

Tips About Pet Health



A Little Touch of Humour

Q. Why did the kangaroo stop drinking coffee?

A. She got too jumpy ...

Q. Where do shellfish go to borrow money?

A. The PRAWN broker! 😊

TIP: Provide a heated pad for your pet's bed or favourite chair rather than having them snuggling too close to the fire or heater!

CAT GESTURE EXPLAINED

The Slow-Motion Blink or Wink!

. Does your cat gaze at you from afar, with a relaxed gaze then surprise you with a slow-motion blink? This gesture can be translated easily. It means that your cat's slow-motion blink (or the wink like gesture) is telling you that they are comfortable in your presence and enjoy your company. You can return the gesture by slowly shutting your eyes and opening them or wink slowly back at them. It is a great honour when your cat demonstrates that they love your company 😊



DESEXING AWARENESS.

Both male and female cats can benefit from desexing, Dogs can have a litter of 4 -7 puppies each year, whereas a cat can have 2-3 litters a year with anything from 1- 10 kittens per year. That is a lot of kittens and puppies to find safe homes for. A female cat can become pregnant at the early age of four months, much to their owner's astonishment! Neutering a male dog or cat can prevent the habit of territorial spraying marking, a habit that is hard to stop once it starts. Females can spray as well but are less likely to unless they are stressed or ill. Once a dog or cat is neutered or spayed, they are less inclined to wander away from their home or get into fights. They also seem calmer and more affectionate and they seem to live longer. Cheltenham clinic uses the latest anaesthetic and monitoring equipment to ensure the procedure runs smoothly and without complications. Please talk to us about booking your pet in to be desexed. For more details about our surgical care [please click here.](#)

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DOG DIARRHEA.

Dogs are known to eat almost anything, and it seems the smellier it is, the better they like it. Therefore, it will come as no surprise when your dog gets a dose of diarrhea. But there are many causes of diarrhea, from infections such as parvo virus, to intestinal parasites. Stress can also be a factor. But if your dog's diarrhea continues for more than a day, you need to bring your dog in for a checkup. If there is fever, lethargy, vomiting, loss of appetite or dark and bloody stools, your dog needs veterinary attention immediately. Make sure your dog has plenty of clean water available and monitor your dog to see how serious the diarrhea is.

PET SEIZURES.

It can be frightening to witness when your dog or cat during a seizure, you cat or dog may lose consciousness and/or convulse uncontrollably. Body twists and shakes are a result of unusual electrical activity within the brain. These seizures can be violent and may last for several minutes. It is important to remain calm for your pet's sake and move any objects that they may hurt themselves on out of the way. Calm your pet by gently stroking their stomach or back. Never put your hand near their mouth as they may bite down hard on you as they have no control of their muscles. If your pet's seizure lasts longer the five minutes, overheating is a serious concern. It is important to seek our help the moment you notice your pet experiencing a seizure, as these events can progressively damage the brain causing lesions to form. Poisoning or a stroke can be a cause, but a physical examination followed by a number of tests are required to find what has caused the problem. For information about our diagnostics & Lab testing [please click here.](#) Although there is no cure for epilepsy, medication and physical therapy can reduce the severity of the seizures.

TIP: For the indoor cat or dog, a nice fresh bowl of growing grass is ideal to chew on and provides vital minerals as well as roughage into their diet. Many pet owners grow several bowls at a time, so they always have a fresh bowl available for their appreciative pets.