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### FUN CAT FACTS

A cat rubs against people not only to be affectionate but also to mark out its territory with scent glands around their face. The tail area and paws also carry the cat's scent. Did you know that a cat can jump up to five times its height in a single bound? Or that a cat has about 12 whiskers on each side of its face? And finally, a group of cats are called a 'clowder'.



### DENTAL HEALTH CHECKS!

Remember to make an [appointment](#) to have your cat or dog's teeth checked. A quick clean or tooth maintenance will keep your pet's teeth in perfect condition and keep them healthy.

**CHELtenham Veterinary Clinic** Life is slowly returning to normal, or perhaps we should say the 'new normal' as the lockdown slowly eases. Schools are beginning to open, and business is slowly beginning to gain momentum. For your pets, this is not necessarily a welcome event as they will have enjoyed having all your attention over the last few months. They will be a bit sad to return to being home alone again. But never fear, initiate some early morning playtime, then leave them with a well stuffed Kong or similar food dispensing toy to keep their mind off being alone. Leave some soft music playing to break the silence, and for new pets, maybe arrange a dog walker or a family friend to call in and see your pet. Any change in routine will affect your pets, so keep them in mind as you welcome your freedom back. Keep up the social distancing and the hand sanitizing. We are nearly out of the woods, so let's keep vigilant.



### PAW PROBLEMS IN DOGS.

Dogs paws are tough but occasionally the pads of the paws can get injured from sharp objects or walking on hot or cold surfaces for a great length of time (such as during hiking). Pooches can also suffer from split paw pad disease, the cause of which is unknown. Bring your dog into us to check your dog's paws out as soon as possible. But if you cannot get in right away, gently wash the wound with a clean warm cloth that has been soaked in warm water and lay it on the affected area. The warmth and moisture remove the surface debris and draws the blood flow down to the injured tissues to help prevent infection. After a while, let the paw dry then protect the wound by covering it with a sock and taping around it to keep it on (just not too tight or you will cut off your dog's circulation). But please [bring your dog in to see us](#) as soon as possible. The healing process can take up to three weeks. If it takes longer, it is a chronic problem that needs to be investigated further as it may be related to liver disease.

### UPPER RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS IN KITTENS.

This condition is hard on kittens, especially if they are just a few weeks old. The upper respiratory infection in cats is typically caused by bacteria or viruses, which are passed along when other cats sneeze or exhale. Sneezing is the main symptom although kittens often develop a thick yellow discharge from their eyes or a runny nose. Difficulty breathing and refusal to eat is a more serious situation. Your kitten will require our help as this condition is hard to overcome on their own. If your kitten is sneezing excessively bring them [into the clinic](#) for treatment.

**THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF HAVING A PET** These include decreased feeling of loneliness, decreased blood pressure, increased opportunities for socialization (people love to meet other people with pets – it's a great way to interact easily with others), and offers increased opportunities for exercise and outdoor activities (especially for dog owners!) It enables you to brag online about your fur baby (think Facebook), and there is always someone enthusiastic to greet you when you arrive home. Pets are the best! They lower your stress levels and give you a purpose in life!



### A Little Touch of Humour

**Q.** What do you call a cat that's a beauty influencer?

**A.** Glamourpuss!

While the curious Labrador was sniffing around the giant oak tree, the shepherd dog approached him and said, 'You won't find what you're looking for, you're barking up the wrong tree'. Pun Intended. 😊

### WINTER DIET & EXERCISE

Dogs and cats' diets are calculated to give them all the vitamins, minerals, and calories that they need to thrive. But some winter days can be slow, sleepy indoor days while others can be high energy days such as your dog enjoying some rain puddles! Adjust your pet's diet to suit the activity that they are doing. An indoor pet can be encouraged to exercise by hiding treats around the house, so they must work to find them. Or throw dry treats down the stairs or a hallway. Get them moving inside when the weather is bad out. And make sure their diet reflects their activity. We can help you with your [pet's diet](#) if you require help.



### OLDER PETS- CARE DURING WINTER.

Winter can be particularly hard for the older pet, joints are not so flexible, the wind can chill their bones. The older pet sleeps more, and they are set in their ways.

Things to look for in the older pet includes the following. Senile cataracts may occur around 6 -8 years of age, causing loss of vision and your pet may bump into furniture. Older pets may gradually lose their hearing which often becomes apparent around the 10-year-old mark. Sometimes hearing loss can be caused by a stroke, brain tumour, or an ear tumour.

If your dog shows signs of hearing loss, please bring your dog in for a full [health check](#). The aged pet may need more frequent dental care, including scaling the teeth at least twice per year. Dental problems can cause deeper body disease issues. Skin and coat problems are common in the older pet. Make sure you regularly check for any lumps, sores that do not heal, parasites, increased hair loss and abnormal odour's. Please book a health check for your older pet. Warmth and comfort are important to the older pet so provide soft beds, warm rooms, and good diet to help them along.



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### 5 DOG SLEEPING POSITIONS & WHAT THEY MEAN.

**The Lion Pose** – if your dog sleeps with their head on top of their paws Like a statue of a reclining Lion in front of an important building. The dog is Apt to be simply dozing and is not yet in a deep Sleep.



**The side Sleeper** – This is the most common position where the dogs use to sleep lying on their side with their legs extended. This means that your dog is relaxed and comfortable and shows a level of trust in their surroundings

**The Donut** – your canine curls up into a little ball. This position helps them to regulate their body temperature and keep warm, it also makes them feel less vulnerable.

**The Superman Pose** – Stretched out with their legs in front of their heads and their hind legs kicked out behind their butt and lying on their tummy. This pose is often a response to a warm environment as the fur on the underside is not as deep and insulating as the fur on the rest of the body, so it helps your dog to cool down.



**The Cuddle Bug** – a dog that tends to cuddle up to you or other pets when they sleep is a holdover from being a puppy. It has everything to do with their temperature and keeping warm. It is also a learned feeling of comfort held over from puppyhood.

**Dogs are famous for sleeping when there is nothing to do, but rattle their walking lead, open the fridge, or try to sneak out the door without them and they are awake and ready for action in an instant!**

*“Animals are such agreeable friends – they ask no questions; they pass no criticisms” George Eliot*