



cheltenham
VETERINARY CLINIC
nurturing the human animal bond

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Health issues in Winter.

Although winter is on its way out, keep in mind your pets still need protection against the cold. Make sure their bedding is dry and not damp. It takes longer to dry things in winter, so having a second source of bedding and blankets for your cat or dog will help a lot when you wash their bedding. They love to snuggle down in a ton of blankets, but damp rugs are no fun! On the coldest days, a pet heating pad will be their go to snooze spot. It not only alleviates pain but it improves mobility in pets with a touch of arthritis. Grooming doesn't stop in winter, although baths may be less often for an indoor dog. Just be careful to dry them off well after a warm bath. Brushing is important for all furry pets to keep the knots at bay. **Just A Reminder—Keep up to date with your pets flea treatments as summer is on the way & fleas will be getting ready to find a new host to live off!**



Welcome to our August 2021 Newsletter

With pets in mind, prevention is always the better option. Things like getting your pet microchipped so if they do get lost they can be found and returned quickly to you. Plus check out the vaccinations to prevent some highly contagious and potentially fatal diseases—all these things help your pet remain happy and healthy. August is the last month of winter, and once we hit spring, life becomes more interesting. All those newborn animal and baby birds to watch out for. It is a good idea to get all the essentials like pest treatments, [dental care](#), and vaccinations done now so your pets are ready for the coming change of season. If you have any pets who are pregnant, make sure you know what to expect on the day. Your cat/dog/rabbit etc will be guided by nature's instinct, but check that you have some essentials handy just in case you need to call us for help or lend a hand yourself. Understanding the birth process will enable you to detect the signs of when your pet is in dire need of assistance.

How Long is a Pet Pregnancy?

On average cats gestation period is 63– 65 days, approx. 2 months. A dog's pregnancy lasts for about 9 weeks. While domestic rabbits gestation period is generally 30 –32 days. Guinea pigs take 63– 68 days on average.

Signs to watch for.

Most dogs and cats will stop eating 12– 24 hours before giving birth.

Nervousness, restlessness, and your pet may seek a place to nest if they haven't already found one.

Cats may pace as delivery of the kittens approach. She may also meow and cry as her discomfort increases and she may groom herself more than usual.

Generally any behaviour that is different from normal may be a sign that the birth is almost imminent. If your pet shows signs of distress or the labour is getting too long, please call us for help.

A Little Bit of Humour.

I recently bought my pet duck a mask, to protect it from the corona virus. It's nothing flashy, but fits the bill.



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KENNEL COUGH.

This is a respiratory infection that can be transmitted between dogs when they interact. Signs to look for include coughing, runny nose and eyes, and a loss of appetite. Vaccines can help prevent some types of kennel cough. Your dog can also be helped by the use of medication to speed up their recovery. It is important to keep your dog away from others so they don't spread the infection. Give them lots of rest as they recover, and contact us if you have any concerns.



Foods that should not be given to cats. These include onions, garlic, green tomatoes, chocolate, grapes and raisins. Tylenol and aspirin are also extremely toxic to cats as are many plants and flowers such as the lily. Feeding a cat food or canned tuna that is for meant to be for dogs or humans can cause malnutrition!



Skin Cancer in Cats.

This disease is often seen in mature or elderly cats, as well as cats with white skin or hairless cats due to their sensitivity to the sun. The good news is if it is detected in time, skin cancer can be stopped from spreading to their internal organs. Skin cancer may show up as tumours, lumps or bumps on the skin. There may be redness, swelling, itchiness, and hair loss. It may also take a while for lesions and wounds to heal. Skin cancer may diagnosed with blood tests, or the examination of the cells extracted from the tumour and biopsy. X-rays will be able to show if the cancer has spread to the lungs. Once we can establish the type of cancer your pet has, we can then recommend a suitable treatment. Most of the time, treatment will consist of surgery. We first have to determine that the cancer has not spread to the lungs or lymph nodes. The tumour and a part of the surrounding skin cells will be removed. Chemotherapy is only recommended if a tumour cannot be removed or when the cancer has spread to the body. Prevention is making sure your cat is not overly exposed to the sun, especially a white cat or those with a lot of white. A healthy diet will keep your cat fighting fit and when you are grooming your cat, just check for any changes such as swellings, scaly skin or changes in colour of the skin. Detected in time, most tumours can be removed.

Why Does My Dog Keep Licking Their Lips?

While lip licking is usually associated with a submissive gesture which is meant to prevent aggression from escalating, it is also a sign that your dog is stressed and uncomfortable with a situation. Your dog is using the licking as a calming signal—as an appeasement when they are fearful. If you growled at them for peeing on the floor while you were away, they may fear your reaction if it happens again, even though you may have forgotten about it.

If they are drooling as well as smacking their lips, check their nose, gums and teeth to see if all seems normal. Tooth decay, an object embedded in their mouth, or periodontal disease can all cause consistent pain and aggravation within the mouth or when eating.

If the licking continues yet all is well with the teeth, it could mean that they are experiencing a health related problem such as nausea, allergies or even internal pain. The lip licking could be a sign that they have eaten a [plant that is poisonous](#). If it continues for a noticeable long time it means your dog is obviously suffering from some health issue that needs

OFF-THE-CUFF POINTS IN PET CARE

Proper dental care can benefit your pet's overall health and even potentially prolong their life!

If you are going to change your pets diet, do it slowly, since an abrupt change of food can cause stomach upsets and vomiting.

A chubby pet may be cute, but obesity can create a lot of health issues such as diabetes, heart disease and arthritis.

Some pet vaccines can become less effective over time, so booster shots are important.

Investing in a quality pet carrier is worthwhile. It can keep your pet safe when travelling in a car, and stop scared pets from escaping and getting lost.

In the long run, its almost always way cheaper to pay for preventative check-ups than it is for major procedures!