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The friendly team with over 50 years of veterinary experience.



ANNUAL WELLNESS TESTS

Pets cannot tell us when something is wrong with their health. They tend to accept their lot and get on with life. Unless you notice things like they are slower than usual, quieter, or maybe they are a bit touchy when handled, you would never know that their health is declining. Therefore it is important to bring your pet in for an annual wellness test. Blood and urine testing especially for senior pets between 7 -10 years of age can prevent age related disease from getting a foothold. Early detection will give your pet the best chance of survival and allows an excellent quality of life.



Welcome to our **APRIL 2019** Newsletter.

Autumn is a fun time of the year. The weather has cooled a little and now there are all those piles of leaves that dogs and even cats love to play with. Hours of fun can be had by just taking your dog out for a run and throwing the ball into a leaf pile. The bigger the pile, the better the fun! Cats can have just as much fun chasing a windblown leaf around the yard or patio. That's your pets exercise sorted. A word of caution about all those mushrooms that are everywhere at present, some are toxic to your pet so keep them away from munching on them. Easter eggs (chocolate) are also toxic to pets and can be fatal. Keep the chocolate to yourself and give them a healthy treat instead. **HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE!**



EYE CARE HEALTH IN PETS.

Look deep into your pets' eyes, and what do you see. No doubt there is love, trust, and devotion staring right back at you. But apart from that, check to see whether their eyes are healthy. When you check your pets' eyes, look for redness, swelling or an unusual discharge. Regardless of breed or species, your pets' eyes should be bright and clear and the lining pink and healthy. Pets, especially dogs who roam in the woods, can often get foreign bodies stuck in or around their eyes. Be very gently when you check your pets' eyes and make sure not to touch the eyeball. Another thing that we often forget is that dogs especially love poking their head out of the car window as you travel. They always look so happy with their tongues lolling out and a big grin on their face. But they can get foreign objects hitting their eyes so just be aware and check their eyes after a trip. If you see anything that worries you or your pet is displaying signs of discomfort, bring your pet in to see us and we can check the health of their eyes.

Our information packed website for healthier + happier pets is;

<http://www.cheltenhamvet.com/>

DENTAL CARE. A pet with healthy teeth and gums has a much nicer breath! But aside from a stinky breath, dental disease can lead to health problems of the heart and other organs. Research estimates that 4 out of 5 dogs over the age of 3 years have some sort of periodontal disease caused up by the build-up of plaque, which is why it is so important to get regular dental checks and cleaning. Animals are experts at hiding their pain. You may not notice until a disease became so advanced there was no way of hiding it. Regular dental checks can save you and your pet a lot of distress (and money) in the long term. Book in for a dental examination today.

PREMIUM PET FOODS



Choices can be overwhelming when it comes to the right pet food. That is why we have an open-door policy and welcome your questions and enquiries regarding your pets' dietary requirements. We stock a range of yummy cat and dog treats that are chewy, delicious and promote dental health. Our premium stock comprises on Hill's Science Diets, and Hills Prescription diets, but if you want something else, we can usually obtain it within 24 hours of ordering. If your pet is a little overweight, we are happy to check their health and provide some advice on how to get your pet back to a healthy weight. We stand by our slogan **'We make your pet happier & healthier today'**

FUN FACTS about Guinea Pigs.

They are not related to pigs and they don't come from Guinea. They were domesticated around 2000BC in Peru & Bolivia and kept mainly for food! These little critters can suffer heatstroke if they become too hot. And they live between 5 – 8 years.

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TIPS ON HOW TO TEACH YOUR DOG TO CATCH A FRISBEE SAFELY.

If your dog has never chased a frisbee before, start slowly - practice in the back yard at home so there are not so many distractions, and begin just rolling the disc to them. Get them used to the size and shape of the Frisbee and praise your dog when they bring it back to you. Use a disc that is light and made from a soft material to begin with, so it doesn't hurt your dog. Teach yourself how to throw it correctly. Pretend you are holding a dinner plate upside down and place your fingers under the lip with your thumb over the disc. When you throw, follow through with your wrist, then hand, and follow through with your body. Do not throw the disc directly at your dog, give them an opportunity to see the disc in the air so they can chase it and retrieve it. Start out slowly and build your dog's fitness and strength. It is an ideal way to get out, get fit and have some fun!



Please check out our Facebook page – it is regularly updated and covers a wealth of information.

<https://www.facebook.com/cheltenhamvetclinic/>

WHY DOES YOUR CAT EAT GRASS? We all know once kitty has nibbled on some grass that they often throw up afterwards. So why do they do it? Grass contains folic acid which is an essential vitamin for body functions including assisting in the production of haemoglobin, a protein that helps regulate the oxygen in the blood. So maybe kitty is just having a natural health tonic. They may eat grass to counteract indigestion or fur balls that are forming inside. A quick chew of grass, a bit of vomit, and hey presto, problem solved. Except that we usually are the ones cleaning up those delightful messes. When a cat eats its prey, they eat both the edible and the inedible bits such as fur, feathers etc. A quick chomp on some grass can help eliminate those inedible bits making kitty feel a whole lot better ... and us a whole lot worse! So, eating grass is not a bad thing. If your cat is mostly inside all the time, you may want to consider growing a tray of grass so that they can have a nibble when they feel like it. Having grass available may deter them from eating your houseplants which may be toxic to them and give them one heck of a tummy ache requiring a trip to the vet.

Joke Time

A client recently brought her two cats to the veterinary clinic for their annual check-up. One was a small-framed, round tiger striped tabby, the other was a long, sleek black cat. She watched closely as I put each on the scale. 'They weight about the same,' I told her. 'That proves it!' she exclaimed. 'Black does make your look slimmer. And stripes make you look fat!'

BEST VEGETABLES FOR DOGS

Asparagus, Broccoli (not too much or it can upset digestion), Carrots – ideal as a crunchy snack, Green Beans- low calorie and high fibre help to keep them feeling full, Kale... too much can cause gas and bloating but a little is a perfect meal addition, Parsley is an ideal breath freshener, Pumpkin is delicious especially pureed, and Sweet Potato... cooked and mashed.