

# Blue Green Algae Water....



No Swimming! No Drinking!  
No Paddling!

Summer gives us more daylight, lots of outdoor activity and warmer temperatures. Dogs can get thirstier than usual while out on their walks and may take a drink from a pond or are water loving dogs and go for a paddle or swim.... but wait..... **is that water a blue/green colour?** Then alarm bells should be ringing as your dog needs to be kept well away from this dangerous substance!

**What is blue-green algae?** They are a type of bacteria called **cyanobacteria**. With the right conditions they will grow very quickly, gathering together on the water surface as a blue-green scum. At times they can also look a green brown colour and you may even notice foam. This cyanobacteria is mainly found in non-flowing fresh water such as ponds, streams, rivers and lakes and is **highly toxic**.

**Risks for Dogs** The toxins produced in blue-green algae, are very harmful and can effect liver function. Very sadly it is often fatal or if your pet survives, they can suffer from long-term health problems.

If you suspect or see that your dog has had access to pond, stream, river or lake water, and you notice any of the following symptoms, **please do not delay in calling your vet**.

**Vomiting – Drooling – Diarrhoea**  
**Difficulty breathing – Fitting**  
**Disorientated – Collapse**  
**Prevention is Better**

- Keep your dog on a lead near blue-green algae water.
- Do not allow drinking from puddles, streams, ponds etc.
- Take clean water from home for your dog to drink.

If you would like more information please do not hesitate to contact us.

## Your Surgery Hours

and any other items you prefer to include

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# Your Veterinary Practice **news**

Summer 2024

## Is Your Rabbit too Hot?

In hot summer weather we all like to stay cool. Dogs will pant to pull air across the capillaries in the tongue, so helping cooler blood to circulate through the body. Cats have sweat glands in their paws to lower their temperatures. Our rabbits also need to keep cool! This is very important as pet rabbits are at a higher risk of heatstroke, because unlike their wild rabbit friends, they cannot burrow underground when it gets too hot. Pet rabbits rely on us to help keep them cool. It's not a sure bet that UK summers are going to be hot, but we have experienced searing temperatures some years, so keep an eye on the weather so you are prepared. If temperatures reach 25 degrees celsius your rabbit could be dangerously heating up!

### Prevent Heatstroke.....Keep Cool!

If it gets too hot you may need to bring them inside the house out of the heat.

**NEVER** leave your rabbits in direct sunlight.

Provide plenty of shade for your rabbits.

Put your rabbits housing and outside run in the shade.

Ensure the housing has good ventilation.

Provide a regular supply of fresh cool drinking water.

Have cooling mats for your rabbits to lay on.

Groom rabbits with thick fur as this will help quickly remove any loose fur.

### Heatstroke signs to look out for in your rabbits are:

- Lethargy ● Shaking ● Breathing with mouth open
- Red ears that feel hot ● Weak & Confused ● Drooling

Heatstroke in any of your pets is serious and can happen very quickly. The condition requires immediate treatment, so contact us without delay.



**Cat Chipping Reminder** From 10th June 2024 cat microchipping will be mandatory. Please call now for an appointment. Full details can be found at [www.gov.uk/government/news/treasured-pets-now-safer-as-microchipping-for-cats-becomes-compulsory](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/treasured-pets-now-safer-as-microchipping-for-cats-becomes-compulsory)





# Healthier and Longer Lives

We all do it... age! As our pets become older, there is so much we can do to help keep them healthy and enjoy a good quality of life. A combination of preventative healthcare, regular exercise, a good diet, along with the ever-increasing advancement of medical and surgical care, can help your pets live much healthier and longer lives.

## Blood Screening Profile

A busy river of red liquid flows through your pet's body, distributing oxygen and nutrients, fighting infections and collecting waste. **Blood** carries a wealth of information about your pet's health. Here at our surgery, we can do a full blood screening profile to help detect signs of disease and organ dysfunction. There are many conditions and problems that can be diagnosed in the earlier stages, which provides an improved start in treatment to help your pet enjoy a healthier life.

The process is generally quick and simple. We shave a little of their hair, then a fine needle is inserted into a vein from where a small amount of blood is taken. A nurse will hold and reassure your pet during the process.

## Identify-Diagnose-Treat

If the test shows that your pet is developing a condition of any kind, your vet can discuss with you the many forms of treatment that modern veterinary medicine now provides. Not all conditions can be cured, but treatments can help to improve your pets' quality of life.

**If you are interested in a blood screening profile for your pet, please contact us for further information.**

Your Practice Logo

address, phone & website



# The Cat's Whiskers

*A way of saying something is near perfect!*

Cats are remarkably athletic creatures that jump great heights, balance on the thinnest ledges and squeeze through the smallest gaps. Their long beautiful whiskers greatly contribute to these amazing talents!

**Whiskers** are long stiff hairs that grow around the mouth and face, above the eyes, on the jawline and the back of the front legs. Also known as **vibrissae**, whiskers are actually a cat's own sonar system!

**How do they work?** Whiskers are deeply embedded to firmly connect to the cat's muscular and nervous systems. These stiff hairs send information to the cat's sensory nerves. Whisker tips have sensitive sensors called proprioceptors, which assist the cat in judging distance, width and direction. They even respond to air vibrations when catching mice!

It is quite natural for a cat to shed whiskers and grow new ones. **Never cut or trim whiskers**, as a cat would be quite lost, scared and confused without them! These 'sonar' whiskers are an astounding part of your cat's anatomy!



# Summer is Here!



Long, hot and sunny days create plenty of activity in the great outdoors. Whether in our own gardens, the park or countryside, there are a few factors to take into consideration regarding the safety and welfare of our pets.

**Grass seeds** are quite small, but can cause big problems for your dogs, as they may become embedded in their paws, ears and eyes. Seeds can even be inhaled and lodge in the nose or sit in an airway to the lungs. Those breeds with longer ears and coats or 'feathery' paws, are magnets for grass seeds!



Regularly inspect your pet's coat and body especially after exercise. Pay careful attention to their paws, eyes and ears. Trim hair around the ears and under the ear flaps. Keep hair short between pads and toes.

The most common seeds are the small round and arrow shaped seeds, the latter has a very sharp tip, so can burrow and pierce the skin.

## Seed Signs to look out for:

- Licking Paws ● Pawing at eyes
- Red swelling between toes
- Excessive ear scratching or head shaking
- Sneezing ● Coughing

Any unusual behaviour or signs of illness, always contact us for advice.

# Your Photo

