

Feline Care

Cats are very clever creatures and have owners wound round their little paws, pampering and serving their every whim! Our felines deal with life in their own time and never seem to rush anywhere, except to the feeding bowl! They can be very vocal and communicate by meowing, purring, growling, trilling, hissing, with pheromones and also body language. It is thought that cats evolved 12 million years ago, and can be seen in ancient Egyptian paintings and sculptures.

Cat Conditions

FLUTD Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease covers a wide range of conditions affecting the bladder and urethra, such as bladder stones, urinary crystals, stress or infection. **Signs can include** - squatting to urinate but cannot - urinating frequently and in unusual places - blood in urine

Mouth Providing routine dental care for your cat or administering medication can prove a fiery business of possible scratches and bites, which does cause owners and even us vets to be a little wary! However, regular mouth checks are needed as some cats are prone to oral disease.

Watch out for - ulcers or cuts on tongues - bad breath inflamed swollen or bleeding gums (gingivitis) - broken teeth - excessive drooling - reluctance to eat

Hair Balls You may find your cat retching to remove a hairball that has formed through grooming. **Other signs can be** - loss of appetite - constipation - a swollen abdomen.



Your Veterinary Practice news

Spring 2026

Routine Healthcare

Vaccinations can help protect your pet against infectious diseases. Cats wander freely outdoors, and may come into contact with unvaccinated, feral or stray cats carrying diseases such as Cat Flu and Feline Leukaemia. Effective and regular flea, tick and worm treatments will help to avoid parasite infestations, which can cause many health problems.

Neutering At roughly six months old, cats can reproduce and often! Tom cats fight with other male cats and are at risk of disease via bites and scratches. A queen cat will deliver 3 - 4 kittens or more, and then shortly after is off to get pregnant again! Neutering provides health and social advantages.

We have plenty of advice, help and treatments to care for your cat, so if you notice any signs of ill health in your feline friend or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Bad Hair Day!

Every breed of dog needs their coat grooming either by brushing, washing or clipping, whether by its owner or a professional dog groomer.

Your Pet's Coat Brushing helps remove dead skin, loose hair and distributes the protective natural oils, all of which assist in keeping their coat and skin healthy.

Golden Opportunity Regular care also provides the chance to spot any health problems in their early stages such as fleas, ticks, lice, hair loss, lumps or swellings, skin conditions and hotspots.

Fur Coat Hair growth follows lines, which are called hair streams. These run from the head down the back, body and legs to the feet. There are factors that affect how this hair grows like the environmental temperature, time of year or health conditions.

Nutrition A diet lacking in nutrition may produce a dull coat with patchy hair growth, so it is important to ensure your pet is fed a well-balanced diet. There are supplements and specific diets that can be given to help, but as always please consult with a vet first.

Happy Times Grooming is part of your dog's routine healthcare and should be an enjoyment for you and your pet. It helps build a relationship, and may even relieve stress for you both! Just take it slowly. Never scold your pet, give plenty of praise, be cheerful and avoid tugging at their hair as it will hurt!

Splish Splash! When it comes to bath time, some dogs love it while others are not so keen. A dog would probably prefer to keep their dirt and smelly fragrance, but if they have just happily rolled in unpleasant fox poo or waded through a muddy puddle, then it's time to head for the tub!

Tub Time Tips

- Brush coats thoroughly first.
- Give plenty of praise and happy reassurance.
- Use warm water and dog shampoo.
- Avoid getting soap and water in eyes, ears and mouth.
- Rinse coats well, as soap residue can be an irritant.
- Be prepared to get wet! Dogs love a good shake during and after a bath.
- Ensure your pet is thoroughly dry, especially those with long, thick coats.

For more advice, please call us. Our friendly team will be happy to assist you on the type of grooming and frequency to suit your pet.

Your Surgery Hours

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Hop to Health!

We really enjoy meeting all your pets and helping to keep your furry friends healthy and happy.

Vaccinations play an important role in the health of your rabbits, so if you feel their vaccinations have lapsed or you are a new bunny owner, now is the time to book an appointment.

Myxomatosis is common in the spring and summer months, but all year round protection is advisable. Your bob-tailed friends also need help against **Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease**, which causes organ damage and internal bleeding. Both these diseases are very unpleasant for your rabbits and are often fatal, so please do ask us about vaccinating your pets.

Flystrike is seen in the warmer and summer months, when flies can lay eggs in soiled fur. The hatching maggots burrow deep into the flesh as they feed. Flystrike can hit any rabbit, but especially those overweight or elderly that have difficulty grooming.

Please check your rabbits bottoms twice daily as flystrike happens quickly and very sadly can be fatal.

E.Cuniculi This parasite can cause many signs including a head tilt, hind limb paralysis, urination problems, lethargy and bloating. Treatment is available, but recurrence is common in times of stress.

'Snuffles' This infection is caused by the bacteria **Pasteurella**, which is normally found in healthy rabbits in their nose and throat. Signs are a milky white discharge from the eyes and nose, sneezing, laboured breathing and abscesses. Prevention is much better than cure; keep the hutch and run clean, feed a correct diet and make sure your rabbits have plenty of exercise.

Your Practice Logo

address, phone & website



Bursting Bulbs!

It really is great when all the pretty spring flowers begin shooting up from the earth. Just a small sign that winter is leaving us and spring is on the horizon! Cats explore the outdoors more and dogs love a good old dig. We know just how inquisitive our pets are and enjoy sniffing out weird items to play with or even eat!

There are many plants that are harmless to our pets, but some springtime bulbs are potentially dangerous if ingested.

Tulips can irritate your pet's mouth and gastrointestinal tract, plus **Hyacinths** and **Irises** are all poisonous to cats and dogs. Every part of these plants has toxins, but the bulb is the most dangerous as it holds the highest concentration of toxins. The **daffodil** bulb is another to watch out for and the yellow flowers are also poisonous. If you have daffodils in a vase in your home, be sure your pet does not drink the water as this can cause problems too.

Signs of spring flower/bulb poisoning

- vomiting ● diarrhoea ● abdominal pain ● drooling
- lethargy ● depression ● breathing difficulties ● fits

If you see or suspect that your pet has eaten even a small amount or had contact with a potentially dangerous flower or bulb, please do not wait for signs to appear, contact a vet immediately for advice.



Diet Rabbits' teeth grow continuously, so they need to eat plenty of fibrous food to ensure they are worn down. Grass and hay are a great source of fibre and should make up 75% of your rabbit's normal diet, with a further 20% of fresh vegetables and just a very small amount of pelleted food.

Teeth Growing teeth, need regular dental checks especially if your bunny shows a reluctance to eat, favours one type of food over another, dribbles or grinds their teeth. Feeding a correct diet can help avoid dental problems.

If you would like more information on the above, please ask our friendly team.

Your Photo

