

Seaside Playtime

ORCHARD VETERINARY CENTRE

news

Spring
2022

Dogs love beach days whatever the season! A wide open space to run and play games in, plus lots of water fun. When you next visit though, please be aware of a few potential hazards, so your pet stays safe while having fun!

Beach Games The wonderful game of throw and fetch the ball is high on the list of beach fun for your dog, however that ball will gather sand as it rolls along. As your dog picks it up, **sand** stuck to the ball can accidentally be swallowed. Some dogs even like eating sand, which unfortunately easily sticks to the intestines and is very difficult to remove. **Seaweed** is another favourite snack, and if dried, expands in the stomach. Both sand and/or seaweed can become impacted causing a blockage. This is a serious situation, so if after a beach visit you notice signs of **vomiting, lethargy, abdominal pain, loss of appetite or even constipation** please do contact a vet immediately.

Paw Prints in the Sand

We've all experienced sand stuck in between our toes.... ouch! So while you are rinsing out yours, please wash your pet's paws too and brush away any sand from their coats, as it is an irritant to their skin. Have a supply of **fresh water** with you to use and for your dog to drink too. With all that running around he or she will get very thirsty!

The Salty Sea Stop your dog drinking sea water! It's salty and along with any nasty parasites and microorganisms, it can make them sick.

Sea Swimming

Some dogs love it, others run away as the waves roll onto the beach. Whether you have a confident 'water dog' or one that is wary, please always remember the sea is a powerful element! **Tides, undercurrents and big waves** can all take your dog by surprise, and could result in your dog being swept further out or under the sea. For those water loving dogs consider a life vest.



Beachcombers Many dogs become absolute scavengers on the beach! Picnic leftovers, dead fish, plus any other 'delights' that may have been washed up on the shore and your dog is on cloud nine with excitement! Dogs are naturally inquisitive creatures, so with noses to the ground, they will usually find something disgusting, but these can contain **dangerous and deadly toxins**..... and those fisherman's hooks with bait attached..... serious and extremely painful damage! If you suspect or see your pet has eaten '**beach food**' call us immediately for advice.

Signs of poisoning include drooling - frothing - panting - fits twitching - muscle tremors - breathing problems - vomiting diarrhoea - lethargy

The beach is a great place to spend time with your dog to enjoy the lovely sea air and open space..... just take a little care while there to avoid any upsets or accidents.

Meet the Staff

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to two of the latest members of our team.

Sinéad



Sinéad Bladen

Veterinary Nurse Sinéad, is Mum to two children and a tribe of rescue pets, including three very naughty rescue dogs.

In her limited spare time she loves walking with her pack, socialising and all things music related.

Kim



Kim Thompson BVM&S MRCVS

Kim, originally from Lancashire, qualified as a vet in 2004, and has been working in the West Midlands since 2010.

Outside of work, Kim loves anything to do with the outdoors, especially walking and birdwatching. She is a born again Christian and an active member of a small church. Kim loves football and is a season ticket holder at a local non-league side, Halesowen Town, following them home and away.

HOURS

410 Birchfield Lane

OLDBURY

B69 1AD

0121 544 0404

Mon to Fri 8:30am - 6:30pm

Sat 8:30am - 12:30pm

Home Farm

Northfield Road

HARBORNE

B17 0TD

0121 428 1777

Mon to Fri 8:30am - 6:30pm

210 Holyhead Road

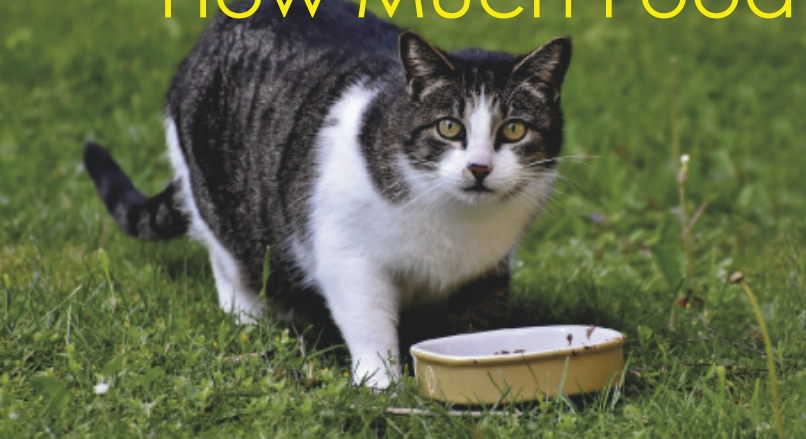
WEDNESBURY

WS10 7DH

0121 556 6890

Mon to Fri 8:30am - 6:30pm

How Much Food Is Your Pet Eating?



Friendly Furry Pets

If you are looking to have a small pet, guinea pigs are lovely 'daytime' active animals, and very responsive to your attentions. These amazing little creatures are one of the oldest domestic animals dating back to 1000 - 500BC.

Healthy Guinea Pigs

Like all pets, they need regular check-ups with a vet. A guinea pig's teeth and nails grow continuously and may require clipping. Mites and fungal infections are sometimes a problem, so at their appointment we can examine their coat and skin too.

Guinea Pig Guide

- The average lifespan is 4-8 years.
- Guinea pigs like companions - a neutered pair or small group of the same sex.
- A good-sized hutch with plenty of dust free bedding and an outside run with tunnels and boxes as they are flight animals and like to hide!
- Provide protection from the sun as guinea pigs can suffer sun/heatstroke.
- Ensure they are warm, dry and snug during winter.

Good Food for Guinea Pigs

- A varied diet is essential - grass, dandelions, carrots, cabbage, spinach, apple and pear. They require a source of vitamin C in their diet. This is found in grass and also in good quality dried pellet food specifically for guinea pigs, which is great for their teeth too.
- Give a regular supply of hay and clean fresh water.
- **Warning!** Always identify plants before feeding them to your pet as some may cause illness and sadly could be fatal. If in doubt.....don't let them eat it! Place outside runs away from potentially hazardous plants.

If guinea pigs sound like the right pets for you, why not get in touch with the rescue centres as there could be these delightful creatures waiting for their forever homes.

For further information on guinea pig care, please contact us and a member of our friendly team will help.



Tubby, chubby, plump, stout...maybe even chunky, are just a few names for your pet being overweight!

Dogs and cats don't have guilt feelings about what type or how much food they devour. Their owners provide it and pets eat it.... it's as simple as that..... but just like us too much food can make waistlines expand!

Sadly there are pets who are overweight and this can lead to serious health problems. Overfeeding, incorrect diet, treats, table scraps and lack of daily exercise, all contribute to pets being fat. That treat of a slice of buttered toast eaten by your dog, is equivalent to a human eating one whole burger in a bun! Combine this with their normal daily intake of food, plus lack of exercise and your pet could gain weight!

Obesity Health Problems ● Heart disease ● Diabetes ● Arthritis ● High blood pressure ● Breathing difficulties

If your pet's weight is heavy on your mind, then now is the time to contact us. Our friendly team can help your pet lose those unhealthy kilos and maintain a perfect weight. Sometimes there can be an underlying condition that is causing your pet to be overweight. So before embarking on any new diet or exercise plan, it is always best to seek advice from us. **Remember we are here to help you keep your pet healthy and happy!**

A Wee Bit of Trouble!

When a new puppy or kitten arrives in the household, the mop and bucket are always to hand! With training and patience your young one soon gets the hang of toileting outside.

For some pets, the puddles may continue longer than expected or reappear later in life, and this can cause a little desperation on your part. Initially, you may scold your pet for soiling in the house, but think before you do, as constant wetting could be a sign of **incontinence**. This basically means that your pet is unable to control when they urinate.

Urine is stored in the bladder until the body tells your pet it needs to wee, but if there is some failure within the waterworks system, then leakage occurs. It can happen at any age, in males and females and for a number of reasons.

Possible Causes of Incontinence

- Some animals can be born with a defective bladder and urinary tract.
- Urinary infections, stones, kidney disease or diabetes.
- For the senior citizen pets, sphincter muscles, which hold urine in the bladder, can weaken and then leakage occurs, especially while they are resting or sleeping.

If you notice one or more of these signs.....

- dribbling of urine ● skin irritation
- damp patches or soaking of bedding
- wet fur/hair between hind legs or on stomach
- constant licking around the genital area.....

then please book an appointment to see the vet.

We will give your pet a thorough examination and possibly perform some tests, which will help us determine the cause. Once diagnosis has been made we can then begin the appropriate treatment.

