

## 'Ello 'Ello What's This 'Ear Then?



The sound of the dog biscuit tin opening or the shake of the cat food box, and pets come running even if they are in the deepest of sleeps! Their hearing is four times greater than us humans, is very sensitive and can

detect higher frequency sounds. A cat and dog has many more muscles in their ears too, enabling them to raise, lower and tilt to pinpoint the actual direction and location where the sound is coming from.

A cat can even independently rotate their ears, but no matter how incredibly our pets' ears perform, they can be prone to ear disease, also known as Otitis.

**Otitis** is a condition we see in our canine and feline friends, and at times is very painful and irritating. It can happen with any breed, but more so in those with floppy ears, hairy ear canals, dogs that swim regularly or have skin allergies.

**Otitis Externa** is when the external ear canal becomes inflamed, which can cause - **itching, redness or an unpleasant odour**. We need to look at your pet without delay, if you notice ...

- **excessive head shaking or scratching**
- **a nasty smell coming from the ears**
- **thick dark wax or discharge**

**Otitis Media** affects the middle part of the ear, which can be a little more difficult to treat, and at times may happen due to ongoing or untreated Otitis Externa.

**If you have any concerns about your pet's ears, please contact our friendly team.**



## We Have Moved!



We are very excited to announce that our **Oldbury Surgery has moved to a new state-of-the-art Veterinary Centre!** The premises offer spacious parking, making it easy to get pets out of cars. New amenities include a physiotherapy suite with water treadmill, grooming rooms, separate cat and dog consultation and waiting rooms, and a large space for puppy parties!!

**The new address is**

**410 Birchfield Lane, Oldbury, B69 1AD.**

Please note that our phone numbers are not changing, and neither are our Wednesbury or Harborne surgeries!

If you would like to have a look around the new surgery and its facilities, we would be happy to give you a tour. Please call us to arrange a suitable time.

We look forward to continuing to provide you and your pets with the same high standards of professional care and compassion from our improved facilities!

## HOURS

410 Birchfield Lane  
**OLDBURY**  
B69 1AD

**0121 544 0404**

Mon to Fri 8.30am - 6.30pm  
Sat 11.30am - 12.30pm

Home Farm  
Northfield Road  
**HARBORNE**  
B17 0TD

**0121 428 1777**

Mon to Fri 8:30am - 6:30pm  
Saturday 2.30pm - 3pm

210 Holyhead Road  
**WEDNESBURY**  
WS10 7DH

**0121 556 6890**

Mon to Fri 8:30am - 6:30pm  
Saturday 9am - 10am

## Pet Travel Update

With the UK having left the EU at the end of January, you may be worried about taking your pet abroad. **The good news is that nothing has changed, at least yet!** Your holidays to the EU will be unaffected while the country is still in the 'transition period', which runs until at least the end of December 2020 (it may get extended).

It's only if Britain has no deal at the end of the transition period that you will need to start thinking about your travel plans. In that situation you may need to take some additional steps to be able to travel with your pet to the EU.

**We would advise contacting your vet at least four months in advance to check what you need to do,** but we're a long way off that just yet!





# On the Move

A new home is exciting for you.....but for your cat? Well their secure and sedate world is about to be turned upside down! Cats are territorial creatures that like a daily routine, which helps provide the security and happiness they need. So it can be quite a traumatic experience for your cat when all this suddenly changes!

**With some forward planning, there are steps you can take before, during and after the move, to help your pet confidently settle into their new home.**

## Before Moving

### Ensure your cat is microchipped!

Existing chip? Then update their records with your new details.

**Cat carrier** Encourage your cat to 'make friends' with the carrier. Place it in a quiet room, with comfy bedding inside and a piece of your clothing. This provides a secure and familiar scent. Allow your cat free access to the carrier.

### Moving day has arrived!

Know where your cat is, so keep it indoors! Place your pet and the carrier in a quiet room, with a litter tray, food and drinking water. Ensure the windows and doors of the room are shut. Stick a 'do not let cat out of room' notice on the door!

**The New House** The key is to make your pet feel safe and minimise stress.

**Choose a quiet room** with recognizable items from your previous home, plus familiar bedding, toys, scratching post, a litter tray, food, water and some treats.

**Ensure windows are firmly shut** and if the door has a lock.... lock it! Stick that sign on the door again as a reminder to everyone!

**When all is safe and cosy**, open the carrier door. Allow your cat to come out in their own time. Provide gentle, happy attention and food for reassurance. **Later when it's calmer**, and ALL the windows and doors of the entire house are firmly shut, you can then gradually introduce your cat to their new home.

**Scent Marking** As your cat investigates, do not stop the head and body 'rubbing' against furniture, doors etc. They are doing their own 'new home furnishing' by leaving their scent for security.

**The Big Outdoors** Keep indoors for at least 3-4 weeks, but each cat is different, so judging exactly the right time can sometimes be difficult. It's all about building confidence, establishing a new routine and the new house as a focal point.

**Begin with short periods of time outdoors and close to the house.**

**Accompany them for reassurance.**

**You could use a harness lead.**

**Allow your cat to scent mark fences, bushes etc.**

**Coincide trips outside with feed times.** It will help your cat to connect the house with you and feeding.

**We are always here to help, so do contact us for more information and advice.**

# Guinea Pigs Are Great!

## Do you know?.....

- Guinea pigs teeth change from baby to adult before they are born.
- Their eyes are open and they can run around almost immediately after birth.
- They eat regular food from day one, and have good vision, hearing and smell.
- The average lifespan is 4-8 years.
- They live in groups in the wild, and originate from South America.

**Guinea pigs make lovely pets** and become very responsive to your attentions. If you feel they would suit your lifestyle then follow our helpful tips.

**A varied diet is essential** Good quality dried pellet food helps keep teeth in shape and prevents selective eating. Grass, dandelions, carrots, cabbage, roots, tomatoes, spinach, apple and pear. Give a regular supply of hay and fresh clean drinking water.

**Warnings!** ALWAYS identify plants before feeding; some may cause illness, or can be fatal. Place outside runs away from potentially hazardous plants. Do not feed grass clippings - this ferments in the stomach and can cause bloat, an often fatal condition.

**Guinea Pigs' Home**.....must be a good sized hutch suitable for the number, with plenty of bedding. Provide an outside run with lots of environmental enrichments like tunnels and boxes where they can hide, as they are flight animals. They can suffer heatstroke, so protect them from the summer sun. Ensure guinea pigs are warm dry and snug in winter.

**Just call our surgery for advice or pop in for a chat. We'd love to see you!**



## Bunny Chat

We reckon humans could really do with an ability that rabbits have. They can actually see behind themselves without turning round, as their eyes are placed on the side of the head!

**When bunnies are happy they twist and jump around ...this is called 'doing the binky'!**

**Rabbits are at their most active at dusk & dawn.**

**Watch out in summer as they can suffer heatstroke and flystrike.**

**Our bob-tailed friends eat their own droppings. Ewww you might be saying.... but it is quite normal and part of their digestive process!**

Rabbits are inquisitive, active, intelligent and sociable, so one pet rabbit kept in a cramped wooden hutch at the bottom of the garden is leading a very unhappy and lonely life indeed! In the wild they live in big groups, so in captivity rabbits **also need company**. Male and female pairs work well **provided they are neutered**. Bunnies also need to forage for food, dig, feel secure, hide, hop, stand on their hind legs and explore. Visit [www.rabbitwelfare.co.uk](http://www.rabbitwelfare.co.uk) for full information on housing and outside run size. **Call us for more information on caring for your rabbits.**