

Puppy

Love

Puddles on the floor, a pile of squeaky toys, a chewed slipper.....you have a new puppy!

Despite all the mess, your heart has truly been stolen by this little one who is depending on you for a lifetime of love, security, food and healthcare. At first everything is a little scary for the new family addition, especially those first few days away from Mum and the rest of the litter, but it's usually not too long before they settle in with you. It is such an exciting and very busy time, with plenty to organise in your new puppy's life.

Primary Vaccinations followed by regular boosters will help to protect your pet against infectious diseases such as **Distemper, Leptospirosis and Parvovirus.**

Microchipping to identify a dog and its owner **became law in April 2016.** This tiny chip holds a unique code, which displays on the special scanners used by vets, rescue centres and dog wardens. Microchipping your dog is simple and can be done in a normal consultation appointment.

Regular Parasite Control for fleas and worms is essential. There are many products now available, and our team can advise on those suitable for your puppy.

Early Socialisation is advisable, as under three months of age a dog is most responsive to accepting new encounters. Familiarising your puppy with a wide range of experiences will help their development and behaviour, so they mature into happy socialised dogs.

Feeding your pet a well-balanced, good quality and nutritious diet, will help bone and muscle development as your little one grows. By 'balanced' we mean a correct mix of nutrients in the food, suited to the age and breed. On the subject of food, puppies are notoriously known for eating everything in sight, especially if it's from the dustbin or garden, which could result in some messy diarrhoea!

ORCHARD

VETERINARY CENTRE

NEWS

Spring
2018



Although common in pups, never ignore diarrhoea, as little ones can become dehydrated very quickly, particularly if they also start vomiting. There could be many reasons for bouts of diarrhoea; an infection, a change of food, worms or even stress created by moving to a new home.

With some treatment, your puppy should soon be on the road to recovery. However, any signs of blood or mucus in the diarrhoea, contact us immediately.

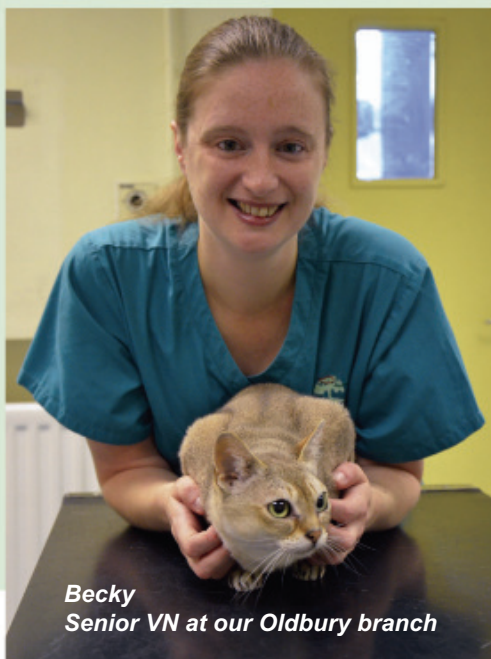
If you would like more information about caring for a new puppy, our experienced team will be more than happy to help.

Staff news! No fewer than three of our veterinary nurses had babies in 2017, and we hope you'll join us in congratulating them on their new arrivals! Among them our **Head VN, Shelley** has decided to bid Orchard Vets farewell in order to better concentrate on motherhood.

Shelley has been with us since leaving school and joined us as a trainee in 1998, so this is a big wrench for her and, of course, we are all very sad to see her go. Consequently, we have reorganised our nursing team and appointed **Becky** as our branch Senior Veterinary Nurse at Oldbury, alongside **Nat** at Wednesbury and **Zoe** at Harborne.

Good for your health! It's common knowledge that owning a pet increases emotional well-being, but a **new study of 3.4 million Swedes has linked dog ownership to lower risk of death from heart disease or other causes.** The findings are important because of the population size being studied. Dog ownership encourages physical activity, while dogs and other pets impact on microscopic life in the home, exposing owners to new microbes and allergens, lowering the incidence of allergies and autoimmune disorders. The research also suggests that dogs have an especially protective effect for those on their own by standing in as family members.

If you or someone you know is thinking about buying a dog or other pet, please come and talk to us. We can help you choose the right animal, a suitable breed with the right temperament, based on your lifestyle.



Becky
Senior VN at our Oldbury branch

HOURS

Church Street
OLDBURY

B69 3AF

0121 544 0404

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

Saturday 11.30am - 1pm

Home Farm
Northfield Road
HARBORNE

B17 0TD

0121 428 1777

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

Saturday 2.30pm - 3.30pm

210 Holyhead Road
WEDNESBURY

WS10 7DH

0121 556 6890

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

Saturday 9am - 10.30am

www.orchardvets.co.uk

Lumps and Bumps of Life

Your much-loved family pet means the world to you and it can be a heart sinking experience when one day you find a lump, bump or swelling. Please do not think the worst if you do come across one, as there are many types of lumps or swellings.

Abscesses are common in cats as they do fight, and bites received can become infected to cause a swelling.

Allergies to fleas, food and even the environment may produce bumps and lumps.

Calluses are thickened areas of dry skin or bumps around bony areas like the elbow, due to regular pressure on the skin from sitting or lying down.

Moles Skin Tags and Warts on the surface of the skin are fairly harmless, but any changes like spreading, bleeding or ulceration need checking out.

Sebaceous Cysts are a pore or hair follicle blocked by dirt, hair or even sebum oil from the sebaceous gland.

Lipomas are benign (non-cancerous) soft and movable lumps of fatty tissue and vary in size. It is advisable to have these lumps regularly checked and as always any new ones that may appear.

Mammary Tumors can develop on female dogs and cats. Neutered pets are at a lower risk.

Malignant (cancerous) Tumors of varying types may form. These are usually hard and attached to surrounding tissue.

Foreign Bodies like grass seeds, awns or thorns, can become embedded causing a swelling, especially between toes, pads and lower legs.

Stings and Bites from wasps, bees and other insects can produce lumpy reactions in some pets.

As with any condition, an early diagnosis means the quicker treatment can begin, which in turn may help the chances of a successful recovery. If you do find something, do not delay in having a vet check out the problem. Many lumps are relatively harmless and just require a watchful eye, while others may need some form of treatment.



A Wee Bit of Trouble

The mop and bucket are always to hand when a new puppy or kitten is in the household. However, if the puddles continue longer than expected or reappear later in life, 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 the animal it needs to wee, but if there is some failure within the waterworks system, then leakage occurs. There are a number of reasons, and it can happen at any age in males and females.

Possible Causes of Incontinence

For the senior citizen pets, sphincter muscles, which hold urine in the bladder, weaken and leakage occurs, especially while they are resting or sleeping.

Some animals can be born with a defective bladder and urinary tract.

Urinary infections, stones, kidney disease or diabetes.

Symptoms

Dribbling of urine. Stained fur and skin irritation. Damp patches or soaking of bedding. Constant licking around the genital area. Excessive water drinking.

Should your pet be showing any of these signs, please book an appointment to see the vet. Examination and possible tests will help us determine the cause, and the appropriate treatment can begin. Then the mop and bucket can return to its cupboard!

Cat Carrier...Friend or Foe?

"Hello.....I have an appointment for my cat this morning, but I have been trying for the last half hour to get him in the cat carrier and if I do by some miracle manage it, he will yowl for the whole journey and even poo.....help!" One of the many calls we receive at our practice and a regular one, so if you are one of these people you are not alone! It's no jokethe struggle, the scratches, and if you're lucky enough to get the cat in the box the journey may be equally stressful. Cats can be particularly bad travellers, with the main problem beginning before you even start the car, as the carrier in your cat's eyes is the.....enemy!

However there are a few steps you can take to make the process run a little smoother. Your cat needs to become friends with the carrier. It's no good just getting the carrier out 10 minutes before the car journey. Preparation is required, so start now, don't rush it, and allow the carrier to become part of your cat's every day life!



Place it in a happy, homely environment.

Spray the inside with a calming pheromone, available from our clinic.

Leave open and have a cosy blanket inside; even an item of your clothing as this will have your comforting scent.

Allow your cat free access to become familiar with the carrier.

Managing the Motion The next hurdle is the car, and early introduction to this is advisable. Once your cat is safely in the carrier, allow your pet to sit with you in the stationary vehicle, while you give plenty of happy praise. You can even try turning on the engine so your pet becomes familiar with the noise. After this, begin with short journeys to build their confidence. Carry an emergency clean up kit, just in case!