

Feline Friends ORCHARD

VETERINARY CENTRE

news

Cats are lovely pets, very affectionate, and during summer our feline friends take great enjoyment basking in the warm sunshine. Some cats like to be around their home and garden all the time, while others are much more independent and will explore the great outdoors. Most cats have their own daily routine to follow, and as pet owners we get used to this routine, but with our busy lifestyles, we may not notice slight changes in our cats' habits, behaviour or general health. Take a look at the chart below, and if you notice any of the signs in your cat, then don't delay in bringing your feline friend in for a check-up, so we can identify the problem and administer any necessary treatment.

Summer
2023

Condition	Signs
Abscesses	Excessive licking of an area Swelling - Redness An open wet wound
Arthritis	Reluctance to jump/exercise Limping/stiffness when walking
Dental	Bad breath - Difficulty eating Drooling - Weight loss
Diabetes	Drinking and urinating more Weight loss - Increased appetite
FLUTD (feline lower urinary tract disease)	Difficulty/pain urinating Urinating in odd places Blood in urine - Behavioural changes
Hyperthyroidism	Increase in appetite and drinking Weight loss - Vomiting
Obesity	Weight gain Reluctance to exercise/jump Less or no self grooming

These are just a few of the conditions we come across. However there are others that may show similar signs, so please do call us for an appointment so we can diagnose exactly what the problem is so as to help your cat regain their health to happily enjoy their daily routine again!

Pal for Life Scheme

Since the early 1980s, Orchard Veterinary Centre has provided a safe and sure way of providing high quality, no worry, veterinary treatment with its **Pal For Life** scheme. For a modest monthly subscription your pet **cat, dog or rabbit** is covered for veterinary treatment at any of our surgeries for the rest of its life. So you have peace of mind and your pet has the best treatment we can offer.

There are a number of benefits to joining –

All of the following are FREE when you join our classic or complete care Pal for Life Scheme!

- All consultations and treatment fees for illnesses and accidents, and operations carried out for medical reasons at one of our surgeries
- Primary and booster vaccinations
- Health examination on entry
- All necessary laboratory tests, x-rays and other investigations
- Consultations, general advice, check-ups, nail cutting and other minor procedures in the out-patient clinics
- Identity microchip implants

Discounts on ● Medication ● Neutering and other non-medical operations ● Preventative dental treatment ● Physiotherapy and Hydrotherapy ● Medical control of breeding ● Worm and flea treatments ● Food and prescription diets ● Boarding cattery fees.

PLUS Reduced subscriptions for extra pets and a 10% discount off renewals if your pet remains healthy.

We don't exclude older or sick animals either, we have a special level of cover for them too!

To join our Pal for Life Scheme call us today!



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

Summer Stingers!



If your pet's paw suddenly becomes swollen, you might find that your dog or cat has been stung! During the warmer weather, wasp and bee stings can happen more often as there are plenty of our buzzing friends occupying the air space and busying around gardens. For our curious pets, the buzzing and quick movement is just too much to resist a good old snap, paw and chase at these insects, resulting sometimes in a nasty sting! Should you suddenly hear your pet yelp, yowl or start whining, licking or nibbling at their leg or paw and holding it up, or shaking their head excessively, these could be signs of a sting!

Please be watchful of any swellings, but particularly around the face and mouth, as this **could restrict breathing**. Some animals, just like people, are allergic to stings, so contact us immediately if your pet....

- has any kind of mouth/face swelling ● is drooling
- has difficulty breathing ● collapses

Insect stings can be very unpleasant, painful and may cause difficulties, but please remember these insects are part of our ecosystem, and play an important role in pollination. As with all living creatures, treat them with respect even though they might sting!

Hopping along to another problem during the warmer months -

Flystrike

When a rabbit's hindquarters become wet, dirty and sore, flies are attracted to this area, where they can lay eggs. The hatching maggots will then literally feed on the rabbit's skin and underlying tissue. **Flystrike is a very serious and painful condition**, which requires immediate veterinary treatment, as sadly it can often be fatal.



Flystrike is a real emergency, so please do contact us quickly!

Help to protect your rabbit

- At least once a day fully inspect their hindquarters to ensure they are clean, dry, egg and maggot free.
- Clean hutches frequently.
- Remove soiled bedding and waste material daily.

If your rabbit appears to have a regular rear end soiling problem, bring bunny along for a check-up. Overgrown teeth and claws or obesity may be preventing your rabbit from grooming properly. We can also advise on the protective sprays, which are available.

Seaside Safety Tips

Dogs just go wild at the beach! Please take a little care while there to avoid any upsets or accidents.

Beach

- Watch for your dog **swallowing sand** as he or she catches the ball that has rolled along the beach. Sand easily sticks to the intestines and is very difficult to remove.
- Rinse away sand with fresh water from in between toes and pads. Brush off sand from coats as it is an **irritant to your pet's skin**.
- Stop your dog eating 'treasures' from the beach. Picnic leftovers, dead marine life etc. can contain **dangerous/deadly toxins**. Discarded fisherman's hooks with bait also pose a painful and serious danger.

Sea

- Stop your dog drinking sea water. It's salty and along with nasty sea parasites and microorganisms, it **can make your pet vomit**.
- Always remember the sea is a powerful element! Tides, undercurrents and waves can take the most confident dog by surprise.
- Consider a life vest for water loving dogs.

