

# High Pressure

## Life

Cats normally appear quite relaxed creatures, but our feline friends can suffer from **hypertension**, more commonly known as high blood pressure.

This can occur in those who have an underlying problem such as diabetes, over-active thyroid gland, heart or kidney disease. Older cats may also develop hypertension, and this can unfortunately cause sudden blindness, because the retina becomes damaged through high pressure in the blood vessels.

### Take Precautions

**Have your pet's blood pressure regularly monitored.**

It is quick, easy and painless for your cat, and performed in a similar way to how a human's reading is taken. The inflatable cuff is placed on the paw or tail of your pet. The measuring instrument will get a precise reading, which if continuously high at each visit, may require further tests and investigations to diagnose any underlying problem that could be causing the hypertension. Once we know why, we can then begin the appropriate treatment.

### If you notice your cat.....

**eating more but losing weight** - This could be a thyroid problem.  
**frequently drinking and urinating** - Kidney troubles may be starting.

Really any signs of poor health or behavioural changes in your pet should always be checked out by a vet. Diagnosing a problem in the earlier stages, provides an improved start in treating and managing the condition to allow your pet a more enjoyable quality of life.

# ORCHARD

VETERINARY CENTRE

# news

Spring  
2019



*Please contact us if you would like more information on high blood pressure or if you have any concerns regarding your pet's health.*

## Taking your pet abroad when the UK leaves the EU



**The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has advised that should the UK leave the EU later this year without a deal, there will be important implications for pet owners wishing to travel overseas with their animals from 30 March 2019.**

Consequently, they have launched a communications campaign to advise pet owners what they need to do in a no-deal scenario, and have asked us to alert our clients to the key facts.

Pet owners will still be able to travel to Europe with their pet after the UK leaves the EU. However, in the event of no deal, they may need to take some additional steps.

**They will need to contact their vet at least four months in advance** to check what they need to do.

The requirements for travel would include making sure that pets are effectively vaccinated against rabies before they travel. **This involves having an up-to-date rabies vaccination and a blood test to demonstrate sufficient levels of rabies antibody. The blood test would need to be carried out a minimum of 30 days after any initial rabies vaccination and a minimum of three months before their travel date.** Please come and talk to one of our vets about your pet's health requirements in good time, to make sure you are able to travel with them

### Staff News

Our former trainee **Hannah** has successfully qualified as a RCVS Registered Veterinary Nurse with a diploma from Halesowen College. She is now set to join our team of nurses and we are really pleased to see Hannah rewarded for her hard work!

### HOURS

Church Street  
**OLDBURY**  
B69 3AF

**0121 544 0404**

Mon to Fri 8.30am - 6.30pm  
Sat 11.30am - 12noon

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



# Tongue Twister

A dog's lolling pink tongue can look quite comical, but this part of the canine anatomy is actually a very powerful tool. It helps your pet to lap water, manipulate food, identify taste and texture, clean, regulate body temperature and is of course responsible for that very wet slobbery greeting across the face!

**Tongue Talk** Under the tongue is a band of tissue called the **frenulum**, which attaches it to the floor of the mouth. Humans can boast 9,000 taste buds, but dogs have only around 1,700. Their buds situated on the tongue tip, are especially designed for tasting water. The slight roughness you can feel as your dog licks your hand, are the small surface bumps called **papillae**.

**Built-In Air Conditioning!** When a dog gets too hot, it cannot sweat through the skin, but can cool down a little via sweating through paw pads. The main source of lowering their body temperature is by panting, as this pulls air across the capillaries in the tongue, so helping cooler blood to circulate through the body. A tongue is also used as a form of communication between a mum and her puppies, to help create bonding.

## What I find is mine!

The intriguing life of the great outdoors is wide open to your pets. By nature they are inquisitive creatures, so to play with and taste some of this life, is just too much for animals to ignore! The curiosity could cause problems for your pets, as there are potential hazards out there!

**Poison** is a harmful substance that your pet may ingest or absorb through their skin. It can cause anything from a minor stomach upset to heart and breathing problems, and may even be fatal.

### Signs of poisoning include

**Drooling - Frothing - Panting - Twitching - Muscle tremors  
Breathing problems - Vomiting - Diarrhoea - Fits - Lethargy  
Increased heart rate and temperature**

**Suspect your pet has ingested or absorbed a poisonous substance?**

1. Contact or go to your vet immediately.
2. Unless told by your vet, **do not wait** - time is of the essence.
3. Try to identify what, when and how much.
4. If possible take the pack/source of any poison with you.

**Old Food** A small food bin for council collection or a compost heap; decomposing food produces mould, which releases poisonous mycotoxins. Ensure your pet cannot reach the bin or compost!

**Chemicals** Spring creates DIY jobs - terrace, BBQ and glass cleaners, bleach, paint solvents, varnishes, wood preservers and white spirit, include chemicals that are potentially dangerous to your cats and dogs. Substances on their coats can be ingested when grooming.

**Rat/Mice Bait** Many varieties are **highly dangerous**, e.g. one type prevents clotting of the blood. If your pet should ingest this, it can cause internal bleeding, which will only become visible as your pet worsens and begins to pass blood in their urine or faeces. Other signs include vomiting, diarrhoea and bleeding from the nose. Take care when using products to combat ant infestations, and **Metalddehyde** in snail/slug pellets is also extremely poisonous.

### Safety Comes First

- ➡ Read safety instructions on home, garden, DIY and car products.
- ➡ Provide 'animal proof' storage.
- ➡ Remove pets from working area. Also keep your cat or dog away from areas recently treated with chemicals.

Become familiar with the types of products and natural problems that cause poisoning. We are also available for advice.

## Have you 'liked' our facebook page yet?



If you're a 'facebooker', please do visit & 'like' our page! With lots of handy tips on pet care, pictures, pet stories, regular postings, offers and much more, we think you'll enjoy our page. We love it when pet owners post their pictures and comment on our posts, in fact we are gathering quite a friendly community of animal lovers, so come and join us! Just pop along to our page to see for yourself, and if you think any of your friends might enjoy it, perhaps you could encourage them to press the 'like' button too!



**Be Careful** It's a good idea to regularly check your pet's tongue and under it. Look out for any cuts, lumps, bumps or swellings and be aware that broken or sharp teeth may aggravate the tongue. Sticks can cause splinters and injuries, some quite horrific, so please think again before you throw a stick for Fido!

So all in all your dog's tongue is quite an amazing piece of equipment. One St Bernard holds the Guinness World Record for the longest dog tongue at 18.58cm! Get your tape measures out, maybe your dog can beat that!

