

Shake it off!

Hands up those of you who have been the target of a wet dog body shake? Oh yes, if you are standing close to a dog whose coat is full of water then you are in for a bit of a drowning!

In a few seconds your dog can shed 70% of the water from their coat, whether after a bath or a swim in the sea. A built in hairdryer!

A dog's skin is loose, so it can amazingly twist and whip around increasing in speed as it does a body shake. Dogs are great at getting dry quickly with this natural reflex, which comes from their wild dog ancestors who needed to stay dry, as being heavily wet for too long was a matter of life or death. Water sits in the coat and creates poor insulation, which causes a dog's body to quickly lose heat and drain energy reserves. So it was very important for wild dogs to keep dry to help them survive.

ORCHARD

VETERINARY CENTRE

news

Spring
2023

Dry Body Shakes These get rid of dirt, loose hair and parasites....another throw back to ancestors who slept outside on the dirty ground. Stress can be another reason... maybe from a visit to the vets!

A good body shake, eases tension and resets the body allowing the dog to say 'phew that's all over, now time to move on'.

After an excitable playtime with another dog.....helps again to reset their emotions.

Feeling uncomfortable.....a good shake does the trick.

Following a nap.....gets the body going particularly in the morning after a long sleep. A bit like us when we have a good stretch after rising from bed!

All in all take a leaf out of your pet's book. A body shake helps a dog move on to a better state of mind and a reset of emotions..... **so let's all have a good shake!**

New Cat Chipping Law

Information on the gov.uk site reports that **microchipping your cat is to become mandatory**. The government are currently reviewing the dog microchipping laws too, and then both will be enforced at the same time.

Once law, **cat owners will need to microchip their cats before they reach 20 weeks old**, plus the details stored and kept up to date on a microchip database.

Many lost unmicrochipped cats never get reunited with their owners and are rehomed from rescue centres. Also owners are often unaware of their pets being injured in road traffic accidents. Please don't wait for it to become law. Just call us and book your appointment now. It's quick, simple and a permanent means of identification for your pet.

For further information visit www.gov.uk/government/news/cat-microchipping-to-be-made-mandatory



International Women's Day

The 8th March marks International Women's Day - a day celebrated around the world to recognise the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

Here at Orchard Vets, we simply wouldn't be able to provide the level of service that we do if it were not for some truly incredible women! Our nursing team is made up of devoted, highly skilled individuals, some specialising in fields such as exotics, hydrotherapy, physiotherapy, behaviour and cat care. **All of our nurses are qualified** (which is not always the case in veterinary medicine!) having been through rigorous training in line with RCVS standards. Some of them have been with us for many, many years! **Let's hear it for our wonderful women!"**



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

www.orchardvets.co.uk



What I find is mine!

Your pets are inquisitive creatures, so to play with and taste what they find is just too exciting to ignore! This 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 sadly could 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/absorbed a poisonous substance?

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

Old Food A small food bin or a compost heap; decomposing food produces mould that 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 and wood preservers include chemicals that are potentially dangerous to 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 may only become visible as your pet begins to pass blood in their urine or faeces. Other signs include vomiting, diarrhoea and bleeding from the nose. **Metaldehyde** in slug pellets is also extremely toxic.

Safety Comes First

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



Long in the Tooth

Bugs Bunny may have two very long front teeth as part of his cartoon character, but in the real world of rabbits, overgrown teeth can be very painful and unpleasant for your pet!

The molars and premolars are known as the cheek teeth. A rabbit's teeth grow continuously, but the grinding, chewing and rotary action of the upper and lower cheek teeth while eating, help 'wear down' the length. If for some reason this action does not happen from maybe a wrong diet or their teeth are misaligned, then problems occur.

Signs to watch out for

- Unable to chew/not eating
- Weight loss
- Runny eyes
- Nasal discharge
- Drooling
- Abscess
- Mouth cuts

Rabbits don't just eat carrots!

An important part of your rabbit's diet is hay and grass, which help grind down the teeth. This food also provides a high source of fibre to assist the digestive system. An all in one pellet food is better than a mix.

We can discuss in detail exactly what is best to feed your rabbit to help stop dental problems occurring.

Do Not Disturb.... I'm Busy Grooming!

Cats are very particular when it comes to keeping clean and tidy, and have a great built-in grooming tool kit; a rough tongue, claws, paws and sharp fine teeth! Along with being extremely flexible, your feline friend manages to look pristine most of the time!

Tongue When your cat has licked your hand, have you noticed it feels quite rough? On the surface are numerous spines that are called papillae that 'comb' through saliva to clean their coats. As cats cannot sweat, the saliva also evaporates helping to lower body temperature. He or she will start by dampening a forepaw and then rub the paw around the face, head and ears frequently re-dampening the paw. Dirt, loose hair and parasites are removed by cleaning. As your cat twists and turns to groom the rest of their body, the licking stimulates the sebum from the sebaceous glands, which is then spread over the coat to help maintain healthy skin.

Grooming Problems Excessive grooming can be a sign that something is up! Some cats can even create large bald areas, so please book your cat for a check-up asap. Gagging and retching could mean hairballs, which may need a little help to remove. Cats with a poor coat condition may be unable to groom due to old age, arthritis or illness and require special attention.

An Important Part of Life

For your cat, grooming is not just about keeping clean. It is also a behavioural action that performs as a self-calming method for when he or she feels anxious, embarrassed e.g. falling off a ledge or even after a fight! It's best not to disturb your cat during their grooming ritual, as he or she prefers privacy!

**If you are concerned
about your cat,
please contact
our friendly team.**

