

Waste No Time!

ORCHARD VETERINARY CENTRE



Summer
2016

NEWS

In the world of veterinary care, illness, accidents and emergencies are all part of our daily life. The sooner we see a poorly animal the better. However, we know it is not always possible to immediately bring your pet to us, but there is a condition where time is not on our side, and for us rings major alarm bells!
This condition is called **Bloat**.

Bloat or *Gastric Dilatation Volvulus (GDV)* is when a dog's stomach literally does bloat. This can then lead to serious complications and unfortunately life-threatening circumstances. Any breed is at risk from Bloat, but more prone are the **larger** or **deep-chested** breeds such as the Great Dane, Doberman, St Bernard, Irish Wolfhound, Weimaraner, Irish Setter, German Shepherd and Greyhounds.

Take one dog.....

His stomach, high in the abdomen, holds fluids, some gas and has a busy process going on, receiving and digesting food. In general, this goes like clockwork. However, suddenly it all changes. His stomach begins to inflate. Our dog is now experiencing intense pain, and as the condition rapidly worsens and the stomach continues to increase in size, it begins to twist, cutting off the blood supply to the stomach and also the exit for gas to escape. This is known as **Gastric Torsion**.

The dog will have been showing some of these signs -

A bloated hard abdomen

Repeated and failed attempts to vomit or burp

Breathing difficulties - Panting

Anxiousness - Excessive salivation

Drooling - Pale gums - Evidence of pain

Cold body temperature

From the onset of the above signs

Bloat is a real emergency!

Early recognition and prompt action

If you notice any of these signs in your own dog, take them to a vet immediately as Bloat/GDV requires urgent life-saving treatment.

It is difficult to pinpoint why Bloat happens, but there are particular risk factors involved.

The dog may have been....

Bolting food or gulping air during one large daily meal

Overeating - Drinking lots of water

Highly active after eating

Stressed or excited temperament

Aim to Prevent Feed smaller and more frequent meals. Speak to us about quantity and types of diet. Avoid heavy and excitable exercise, and limit intake of water before and after food.



Weimaraner

New Staff

We extend a very warm welcome to new staff members, both of whom joined our growing team in February. **Lianne Williams** and **Kelly Mallard** will be working with our reception teams at the Harborne and Oldbury surgeries. Lianne lives with her partner, two children and two cats, while Kelly lives with her husband, son and pet cat, Soldier!

Ticked Off

Earlier this year the media picked up on an outbreak of *Babesiosis* in Essex, which killed two dogs and left three others requiring blood transfusions. The disease is spread by a type of tick, a common parasite, usually picked up in long grass and often undetected, especially if the dog has a long coat. After a walk, smooth your dog all over and feel for ticks, but if you find one, don't be tempted to simply pull it off, as this can leave the head in and can cause infection. Use a tick hook or bring your pet in to see one of our veterinary nurses.



Our Congratulations...

go to **Steve**, our Marketing and IT Manager, and his wife on the birth of their first baby, a beautiful girl, Ada. We are delighted and wish them all the very best.

Dog Microchipping

There has been some scaremongering regarding the safety of having a microchip fitted in compliance with the new legal requirements. We want to reassure you that 'chipping' is a quick and harmless procedure. It can be carried out at all our surgeries, so if you have concerns, please contact us so that we may allay your anxieties.

Fitting a chip costs just £15, and animals registered on one of our Pal 4 Life schemes are entitled to be 'chipped' absolutely free!

HOURS

Church Street

OLDBURY

B69 3AF

0121 544 0404

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

Saturday 11am - 12pm

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

TIGER-STARGAZER-EASTER-RUBRUM

Lilies are indeed beautiful, but all you felines out there need to steer well clear of these flowers, as they are highly poisonous to cats!

All types and every part of this flower are a danger; the stem, leaves, flowers and stamens can be bitten and chewed, while fallen pollen is licked off coats and paws. Cats are inquisitive creatures, especially the young, and just ingesting a small amount of this plant can cause

vomiting-breathing difficulties
lethargy-depression-loss of appetite

If you recognise any of these signs or even suspect that your cat has been in contact with or eaten any part of a lily, **please contact a vet immediately.**

Lily poisoning can cause acute kidney failure, and sadly in some cases is fatal. The sooner treatment can begin the better. **Play it safe and avoid having lilies in your house or garden.**



Need Repeat Medication?allow 24 hours please

Dispensing medication for your pet correctly is very important

If you should require repeat medication, it is necessary for our staff to obtain authorisation from a vet. For most of the day, our vets are busy consulting, operating and writing up their clinical notes. Therefore, they will need time to check your pet's records before we can begin to prepare and dispense their medication. Should your pet be on a long-term course of treatment with us, it is required by law that our vet examines the patient at regular intervals. Therefore you may be asked to bring your pet in for a re-check, before any further medication can be dispensed to you. Occasionally, our stock levels may be low or we need to order in special medication from our suppliers, and this can take a day or two to reach us.



To ensure that we give you and your pet the best attention at all times, please note we require 24 HOURS NOTICE for repeat medication orders.

Just call our friendly receptionists who will be happy to assist you.

Not microchipped your dog yet?

We would advise you to do it asap, because on the 6 April 2016 it became law in England.

All dogs over the age of 8 weeks old must be microchipped, and the details registered on an approved commercial database.

Owners need to keep the details up to date, especially when moving home. If they sell or give the dog away, the new ownership details must be registered **before** the dog leaves.



The Pet Alphabet

Animals give love, cuddles and are our friends.

Bad Breath can be a sign of dental problems. Pop them in for a check-up.

Chocolate is poisonous to dogs and cats. Store well out of their reach.

Dieting may be necessary for overweight pets, as they are at risk from diabetes, heart disease and arthritis.



Ears are responsible for your pets' hearing and balance. Keep clean & infection free.

Footpads act as a shock absorber when running and jumping.

Grass seeds can embed into ears, toes and pads, so check regularly, especially after exercise.



Hairballs may cause your cat to gag or retch in attempt to remove them. If this fails, call us for further advice as your pet may need help.

Itching excessively could mean a hotspot, food allergy, fleas, even an earmite infestation, so a visit to the vet is needed.



Joke: What did the flea say to his wife as they came out of the movies? Shall we walk home or take a dog?! 😊

Keratoconjunctivitis sicca (dry-eye) occurs when tear glands are damaged by the immune system and produce little or no tears. Treatment is available to preserve vision and ease discomfort.

LOVE is what all pets need!

Myxomatosis is a virus spread from wild to pet rabbits by fleas, and causes swellings around the face, ears, eyes and mouth. It affects their ability to eat, drink, see and is sadly often fatal.

Vaccination is available for rabbits from 5-6 weeks old.



Dogs that come to the attention of the police or local authorities that are not microchipped, their owners will be given a short period of time to comply. Failure to do so could result in a £500 fine.

This is being introduced to help dogs, and encourage responsible ownership. Some enjoy loving homes, while others are not so lucky, and are dumped by the roadside or left outside rescue centres.

For full information visit www.bva.co.uk or www.gov.uk