

How Does Your Dog Smell?

ORCHARD
VETERINARY CENTRE

news

Spring
2017



olfaction n. the act or capacity of smelling; the sense of smell.

Your dog's nose is an amazing piece of equipment! A human's primary sense is sight, but for canines it is the sense of smell. This highly developed sense helps your pet understand the world they live in.

As a dog's nose hits the air, it can detect, taste and even remember minute odours, giving past and up to the minute neighbourhood news! A dog has the ability to breathe and smell at the same time. A fold of tissue inside the nose, helps split the airflow as it enters the nostrils, so that all the wonderful odours are diverted down one path for identification in the brain.

Nose Facts

Odour particles stick and accumulate inside the nose making the scent intense.

The area of a dog's brain that identifies all the smells, is about 40 times larger than a human's.

Scent (olfactory) receptors range from 125-300 million depending on the breed, compared to humans who have only 5-6 million.

Nostrils move independently, so informing the dog which direction the news is coming from!

A puppy has heat sensors in their nose, so Mum can be found in those early days of life when eyes and ears are closed.

Noses are generally cool and moist, which is caused by the mucus lining; a warm dry nose does not necessarily indicate illness, but any concerns always contact your vet.

Dark in colour, but a nose can be pale, pinkish even spotted. If it fades to brown in winter and returns to normal colour in summer, it is known as a 'snow nose'.

With this remarkable sense, dogs are now being trained to detect illness in humans, such as cancer and diabetes.

Nose Problems

Sneezing is natural, however if it becomes too regular or excessive, it is a good idea for us to check your pet.

They may be suffering from

an allergy to food, pollen, dust etc.

an infection because of a dental or fungal problem.

a possible tumour/polyp.

a foreign body e.g. a grass seed. We have even heard of paper clips, dead insects, tinsel, string and a 12cm stick removed from noses!

Any signs of a crusty nose, discharge or blood, then contact us immediately for advice.

If you would like further information, do not hesitate to ask..... oh and if you thought you had a good hiding place for your dog's treats.....guess what? Your pet already knows where they are!

New Staff The team at Orchard continues to grow as we've added two new staff members. **Elissia** has joined our line-up of veterinary nurses, and will be working across all three of our surgeries. She qualified in 2014 but, like all our nurses, continues to develop her skills and she is currently undertaking a Masters in Clinical Animal Behaviour at the University of Lincoln!

Meanwhile, our clinical coach **Becky** has taken on another trainee. **Alison** is currently studying to be a veterinary nurse at Moreton Morrell College (part of the Warwickshire College Group). As part of this training she will be working two days a week with the team at Harborne. We hope you'll join us in extending a warm welcome to both Elissia and Alison!

Exotic Advice Exotic animals are increasingly popular as pets, but they raise important concerns about the welfare of both animals and owners. The British Veterinary Association has issued a number of statements concerning the owning and breeding of exotic animals, including campaigning against the keeping and trade of primates as pets.

The BVA highlight ignorance of animal needs as a priority issue, but at least in this Orchard Vets are able to help. We are proud to have a General Practitioner in Exotic Animal Practice within our ranks, so should you start thinking about acquiring a non-traditional pet, whether a bearded dragon or a tortoise, please come in for a chat so that you are fully aware of all the issues.



Vet Emma,
our Exotics
Practitioner

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



Don't weight until it's too late!

Dare we even think about how much comfort food we have eaten over the cold winter months! Dogs and cats never appear to experience guilt feelings about what type or how much food they devour! Owners give it and pets eat it.....it's as simple as that, but just like us, their waistlines do expand!

Do you think you could be overfeeding your pet?

Tubby and chubby are just 'cute' names pets can be called when they are looking a little rotund. **Obesity is not cute, as for pets to be overweight is a serious problem.**

Overfeeding, incorrect diet, titbits, table scraps and lack of daily exercise, all contribute to pets being fat. That slice of buttered toast you have just given your cat or dog, is equivalent to your pet eating a whole burger! Combine this with their normal daily intake of food, plus lack of exercise, and there you have it, the perfect recipe for weight gain!

Obesity Health Problems Heart disease Diabetes Arthritis High blood pressure Breathing difficulties

Take Action! If your pet's weight is heavy on your mind, then now is the time to contact us. We offer free nurse clinics, where our friendly team can help your pet lose those unhealthy kilos and maintain a perfect weight. Sometimes there can be an underlying condition that is causing your pet to be overweight. So before embarking on any new diet or exercise plan, it is always best to seek advice from us. **Remember we are here to help you keep your pet healthy and happy!**

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. However, if for some reason this action does not happen, from possibly a wrong diet or the teeth are not aligned correctly, then problems begin to occur.

Signs to watch out for

Unable to chew/not eating ● Weight loss ● Nasal discharge
Runny eyes ● Drooling ● Abscesses ● Mouth cuts ● Pain

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, as your rabbit may pick out the tasty bits and leave the essential nutritious bits behind! A limited amount of fresh fruit and veg is okay, but we can discuss in detail exactly what is best to feed your rabbit to help stop dental problems occurring.

Bring your rabbit along, so we can check over their teeth to ensure all is in order. Call our reception team for an appointment.

No Fleas Please!

Hey....you humans out there....Frank Flea here just to remind you how irritating us fleas are for your pets....great fun!



Come on now people....you've had itchy, creepy & irritating midge bites, but can your pets dab on a spot of soothing cream? Ah no....they must rely on you for treatment. We can visit your pets at any time, and on those that have no protection....we make their skin sore and cause lots of scratching & nibbling. If we really get stuck in....weight loss & anaemia, especially in young animals.

We drive them crazyeee, and not just in the summer, we live and breed all year round! Flora Flea lays thousands of eggs on pets, their bedding, your carpets and even in the gaps in wood floors, where they hide in your snug central heating waiting to hatch....could be in a few days or several months later....but it's not as easy as it used to be, flea treatments for pets & homes deal with us pretty quickly. Only break we get is that some people don't use them as often as they should, and I'm the living proof! But hey I see a vet....so I'm off....to the party on that tabby cat at number 14!



Advice on a suitable flea treatment for your pet is available at our surgery.

