

the latest

news from maven veterinary care



CAT'S CORNER:

Looking after your Cat's Dental Health

Our cat's mouths are not really an area we think of when we think of keeping our feline friends healthy. In fact, for those of us with temperamental moggies, often our association between health and our cat's mouth may be more focussed on our own health and ensuring we are not bitten if we inadvertently upset our purring beauty!

However, just as with us, good oral health is important in cats.

When plaque and tarter build up on teeth, bacteria can also build up which can lead to inflammation of the gums around the teeth. This can be painful and the bacteria has also been associated with heart and liver disease.

Cats are also prone to a dental condition called feline resorptive lesions. The cause of these is unknown but leads to resorption of the crown or root of the tooth which can be very painful.

The best way to assess your cats' teeth is to have the vet check them as part of their full health check each time they visit us. The vet can then assess if any dental treatment is needed.

Looking after our cats' teeth at home can be tricky. Some cats may accept brushing and, for those who do there is a video guide to brushing on our website (mavenvets.co.uk/dental-disease-in-cats). Other tips to keeping your cats' mouth healthy include using a dental diet for your cat which can help reduce the

accumulation of dental plaque and tarter.

If you are worried about your cat's teeth or would like to have them checked then give us a call on **0208 3372214** to book an appointment.



Surgery at Maven: What's Different in our practice?



Your pet needs an operation. Whether the operation is for something 'routine' such as a neutering or whether your pet is sick and needs an operation as part of their treatment, it is a worrying time. You trust your vet to look after your pet to the highest standards. But what does that mean when we talk about surgery? At Maven we work to the highest standards and focus on ensuring our surgical procedures also meet these:

THE ENVIRONMENT

We have two dedicated sterile theatres where sterile operations can take place. To maintain these theatres the walls and flooring are lined with durable surfaces designed to prevent dirt harbouring. These are scrubbed down and steam cleaned daily. The theatres also have their own air conditioning (so no contaminated air from other parts of the building can enter theatre).

All staff entering the theatres must first change into surgical scrubs and surgical clogs which do not leave theatre. Hats and masks must also be worn in theatre. That means no dirt can be brought in from outside. Before performing an operation the vet will also wear a sterile surgical

gown on top of their scrubs and perform a surgical scrub before wearing sterile gloves. Animals tend to be dirty! To minimise the contamination the pet can bring into theatre they are prepared by shaving the surgical area and surgically scrubbing the area to remove contaminants from their skin. This is all done in a separate induction area, before the patient is moved to theatre.

PATIENT SAFETY – This is our priority at Maven

Throughout every anaesthetic and operation each patient is monitored closely by a dedicated registered nurse. The nurses have completed rigorous training in anaesthetic safety and work closely with the vets to provide this.

All patients are also monitored using specialised equipment throughout their operation. This allows blood pressure, ECG, temperature and breathing to be monitored and means even small changes are noticed and responded to before they become an issue.

At Maven we use surgical check-lists, similar to those used in human hospitals. These are a list of patients safety checks which are carried out before any anaesthetic is started and then a separate list is checked through, in theatre, before the operation begins. These check-lists are used to ensure no safety check is accidentally missed when preparing our patients.

SURGICAL SKILLS

All veterinary surgeons are qualified to perform surgery. However, at Maven several of our vets have undertaken additional ongoing training to further develop their expertise in this area. Michael Morrice is currently working towards his diploma in surgery and Tamsin Woodroffe her certificate in surgery.

Their ongoing training ensures we can provide excellent surgical care for our patients.

Our opening hours

Monday – Friday 8am-8pm

Saturday 9am-4pm

Sunday 10am-2pm

In an Emergency day or night – call us on 0208 337 2214

www.mavenvets.co.uk

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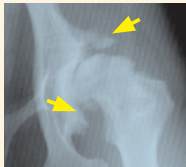
609-613 London Road, North Cheam, Surrey, SM3 9DF



Autumn Alert!

Autumn is a fabulous time of year and with the warm weather fading, many people feel it is a better time of year for their pets, but that doesn't mean we can take our eye off the ball when looking after them.

Autumn joint alert! Older pets will often feel the cold in their joints; becoming sluggish and stiff. Don't ignore these signs, since arthritis is generally the underlying problem. This causes significant pain but our pets are often very bad at letting us know just how sore they are. There are many ways we can help them, so if your senior citizen is slowing down in the



Arthritic hip joint in a dog. You can see fluffy new bone (arrowed) typical of arthritis

autumn, speak to us about how we can put the spring back in their step!

Parasites are still a big issue! **Ticks** and **harvest mites** both enjoy the cooler, moist conditions and while **fleas** are in decline outside, they are quite happy to live in our centrally heated homes! Keep up with your regular protection and do check with us that it covers all the right beasties!



These tiny orange harvest mites are very itchy!

Poisonings are also a concern at this time of year, so keep an eye on what your pet is trying to eat, especially dogs on walks! **Conkers, acorns** and **rotting fruit** are plentiful on the ground but can cause upset tummies. Also be vigilant for **anti-freeze**, it is highly toxic but tastes very sweet, so cats in particular will readily lick it up.

Wasps and bees are coming to the end of their summer lives and are often pretty slow, which makes them irresistible playthings for dogs and cats but they can still sting, which is painful and causes nasty swellings. These are usually easily treated with injections and the sooner we see your pet the better!

So – enjoy the autumn weather, but make sure your pets stay safe! Please call us if you would like any more information.

Chris gains his Ophthalmology Certificate!



We know our clients will join us in congratulating Dr Chris Turner on the recent completion of his certificate in Small Animal Ophthalmology. The certificate is the equivalent of a Masters degree and is a rigorous undertaking with course work and assessments spread over three years. Chris has long had an interest in patients with conditions affecting their eyes and chose this area to focus his study. Having gained his certificate Chris is now able to diagnose and treat more complicated eye conditions as well as the more common and is looking forward to being able to help more Maven pets with eye problems.

Anal gland problems – is your pet affected?



If you have ever seen your dog scooting their bottom along the floor or nibbling at their tail, they may have blocked anal glands.

Your dog or cat has two small sacs that sit to the left and right of your pet's bottom, called anal glands. These glands produce a brown liquid, which has a distinctive strong and fishy scent. Your pets express small amounts of this liquid to mark their territory when going to the toilet, and this is why our pets often greet each other nose to tail! The glands drain upwards, which can mean that in some animals they may struggle to empty and become too full. This is not usually a problem, but some pets may start 'scooting' due to the irritation, chew at their tail or seem uncomfortable. This can be a sign these glands need emptying by a veterinary professional.

Some pets have to visit us on a regular basis for expression. We sometimes recommend trying a diet change or stool hardeners (fibre) to help. If you need any more information, please just call!

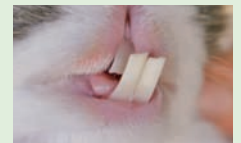
Rabbits – what's up doc?



Rabbits are becoming increasingly popular due to their cute and loveable nature. They do, however, need a lot of care and commitment. They are best kept in neutered pairs to provide companionship, enrichment and grooming. They should have a run where they can stand up fully and run at least five large hops or more. Some rabbits may become sexually active as early as a few months of age, so please speak to us at the surgery to discuss neutering.

Feeding: Rabbits have evolved to eat large amounts of fibre; this provides mental stimulation, keeps their large stomach system working consistently and makes sure their teeth grind down properly. Rabbits have constantly growing teeth, so diets heavy in pellets (and low in fibre) can cause teeth to misalign and your rabbit to require dental surgery. Feeding your rabbit a balanced diet is one of the best ways to keep them healthy. They should have large amounts of hay plus you can also provide a small daily portion (tablespoon sized) of pellets and a handful of fresh veg but make sure once these are finished, they are not replenished until the next day.

Rabbits have constantly growing teeth and dental problems are not uncommon



Misaligned and overgrown incisor (front) teeth

Intestinal problems: Stress, pain and disease may cause your rabbit's intestines to slow down suddenly, making them very unwell. It is very important that you monitor how much faeces your rabbit is producing and what it is eating daily. Diarrhoea can cause a dirty bottom, encouraging flies to lay their eggs and can lead to a serious condition, known as flystrike.

Flystrike is a particular problem whenever the weather is warm and flies are around, typically in the spring, summer and autumn. Flies are very attracted to rabbits if they have soiled bottoms – here they lay their eggs which rapidly hatch out into flesh eating maggots. It is important to check bunnies' bottoms on a daily basis and call us at once if you are worried.

Infectious diseases: We can vaccinate against two deadly diseases: myxomatosis and rabbit viral haemorrhagic disease. **Myxomatosis** is spread by flies and fleas. It causes progressive swellings, leading to blindness and often is not successfully treated. **Rabbit viral haemorrhagic disease (RVHD)** is often a silent killer, producing few clinical signs except for sudden death. There are two strains of RVHD, known as RVHD1 and RVHD2; both strains are lethal. Happily, annual vaccination provides bunnies with protection against these deadly diseases.

If you would like any further information on caring for your rabbit or you are concerned about their general health – please contact us today!

