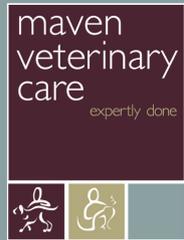


the latest

news from maven veterinary care



Cat's Corner: Diabetes in Cats – Are you aware of the facts?



Diabetes is a condition which can affect cats and dogs as well as humans. There are different types of diabetes and, in cats,

diabetes is most similar to Type II Diabetes in humans. This is where the body does not produce enough of its own insulin or is resistant to the insulin it does produce.

Insulin is a hormone which helps to regulate the level of sugars in our blood. When we eat, the levels of sugars in our blood increases. This causes a release of insulin which allows the sugars to leave the blood and enter our bodies' cells where they are used for energy. This is the same in cats and dogs. However, when a cat has diabetes, the body is not able to produce or respond to insulin and so the sugars stay in the blood. The cells can't access this sugar for energy and so they look for different sources of energy and may begin to break down fats and muscle.

The most common signs of diabetes in cats are:

- Weight loss
- Excessive thirst
- Passing urine more than normal.

Diabetes can be diagnosed with a blood sample and, thankfully, can be treated. Most diabetic cats need to be treated with insulin, given daily by injection. They may also need to have a dietary plan to help support their nutrition and control their weight.

Looking after a cat with diabetes can be daunting for owners at first as they need a lot of care. At Maven Vets we have recently introduced diabetes clinics with our nurses. In these clinics, clients whose pets have recently been diagnosed with diabetes will be given all the support they need to understand and look after their pet's condition, from how to inject and store the insulin, to what to look out for with their pet.

With support, looking after a pet with diabetes becomes much less daunting and we're here for any questions you may have.

To find out more about our diabetes clinics please contact the surgery on **0208 337 2214**.

For more information on diabetes in cats please visit our website www.mavenvets.co.uk/diabetes-in-cats



The winner of Maven Vets' Pet of the Year 2017 is Summer Baker!

Thank you to all our clients who voted in this close-fought competition. Summer is undoubtedly a real trooper and we are thrilled to crown her as Pet of the Year 2017.

Summer is now 13 years old and over the years has become one of our much loved regular visitors. She has been coping with significant kidney troubles, which unfortunately is a plight shared with many of our cats, particularly common with pure breed felines.

A number of years ago an ultrasound scan indicated that one of her kidneys was much smaller than the other and not able to function normally, leaving her with only one working kidney to do the vitally important job of filtering the blood and producing urine. This is normally something that can be managed and she coped well at home for a while.

Just over a year ago she presented again with recurring signs of failing kidneys. This time there was a problem with the one remaining working kidney. The small tube leading from the kidney to her bladder (her ureter) had become narrowed and blocked. This causes fluid to build up in her kidney, which can be very painful and significantly reduced its ability to function. With the other kidney essentially out of action it was so important for Summer to keep this one working as well as possible. She was referred to North Downs Specialist Referrals centre for an operation to bypass the narrowing by placing

an implant called a "sub". This is a small prosthetic tube that runs from the kidney to the bladder in place of the affected ureter, helping to keep the urine flowing.

This life saving surgery went well and Summer returned home. We still see Summer regularly as she requires regular stays in hospital with us to flush the tube to make sure her kidney continues to perform its vital functions. The effects of a blockage make her feel very unwell indeed and she is more prone to urinary tract infections. When she gets sick she often has to stay with us for multiple days at a time so that her kidney function can be supported until she can return home to her adoring family.

At home Summer still enjoys a very happy life. Her dedicated mummy keeps a very close eye on her and makes sure she has all the support she needs. This really helps her battle her condition.

We have so many inspirational stories to tell of exceptional pets and their loving owners here at Maven that it is always so difficult to choose just one of our friends to tell you about, but we think you'll agree that she is one special girl that deserves celebration! For more information about Kidney Disease in cats visit www.mavenvets.co.uk/kidney-disease-in-cats.



Maven Vets Achieve Hospital Status



Our team here at Maven Veterinary Care are thrilled to have been awarded Hospital Status in a recent inspection by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons as part of the Practice Standards Scheme. We join a select group of practices as only 214 practices in the UK have achieved this status and only 11 of these practices are found within the M25.

The Practice Standard Scheme is voluntary and open to all veterinary practices in the UK. Those practices who choose to enter the scheme are rigorously assessed in all aspects of their patient care, premises and clinical and client care standards. Following assessment, the practice is awarded Core standard, General Practice standard or Hospital Standard.

As Hospital standard is the highest level which can be awarded, the team at Maven are delighted that their hard work over the years has been recognised. Ongoing, the team push themselves to review and improve standards clinically and for clients. Their ethos of exceeding expectations has led them well in this and the recent accolade of achieving hospital status is a real credit to their efforts. In his report the Practice Standards inspector commented, 'The friendly and motivated team were all very positive and open with their discussions and rightly proud of where they work and what they do.'

As we enjoy the start of 2018 we look forward to continuing our efforts in providing the best care for both you and your pets.

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

like us on facebook

www.facebook.com/mavenvets



Keeping your pet healthy in 2018!

As the weather warms up, we've put together some top tips to help you keep your pets happy and healthy!

Vital vaccinations: It is very important to keep up with your pet's annual vaccinations. The diseases we vaccinate against can cause life-threatening illnesses to your pets, and in the case of Leptospirosis also pose a significant human health risk.

Vaccines in **dogs** usually protect against Parvovirus, Distemper, Hepatitis and Leptospirosis. In **cats** we protect against Feline Calici Virus, Herpes, Panleucopaenia and Feline Leukaemia Virus.

Another really important part of the vaccine visit is an **annual health check**. A nose to tail examination allows us to pick up *early* signs of issues such as dental decay, heart disease, ear and eye problems, moderate weight gain and much more!

Parasite alert! As the weather warms up, parasites become more and more of an issue.

Key amongst these are fleas and ticks!

Fleas love the warmer weather and dormant eggs from last year will rapidly hatch out into adult fleas, hopping on to passing pets and bringing these tiny pests back to your **Lungworm** is a worm dogs can be infected with by eating slugs and snails which carry the worm. As the weather warms we will start to see more slugs and snails around.

The good news is that we have a range of products that will rapidly kill or repel fleas and can prevent lungworm infection. Pets in our Healthcare Club benefit from the best products as well as their annual vaccination and health check all at a discounted rate. Membership of the club also gives discounts on other essential aspects of healthcare such as recommended diets and dental care for your pets. For more information on our healthcare club visit <http://www.mavenvets.co.uk/maven-health-care-club> or call us on **02083372214**.

The good news is that we have a range of products that will rapidly kill or repel fleas and ticks. In addition we can also advise on other pet health topics such as **diets and feeding, dental care, pet insurance** and much more! Please contact us for more information or to book an appointment!

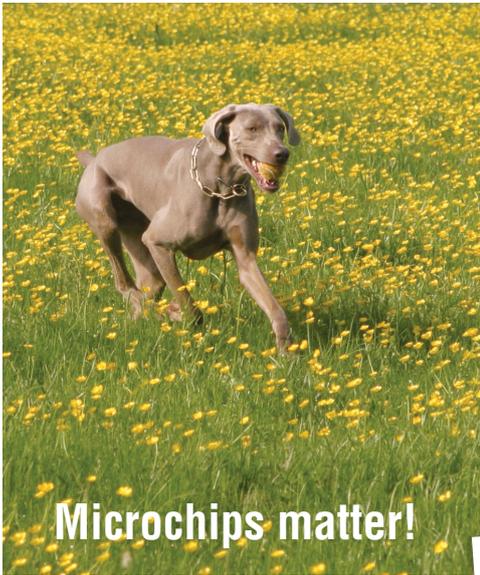


Lungworm infection alert!



Lungworm infection in dogs can be fatal. This is because lungworm can cause problems with blood clotting which can cause internal bleeding – in the lungs or elsewhere in the body. As the bleeding is often internal it can be difficult to identify until it is serious. Lungworm is not seen in all areas of the country but it is seen in our area. Therefore, prevention against lungworm infection is highly recommended.

Photo: Warren Photographic



Microchips matter!

It's sadly all too easy for pets to go missing and if this happens it could mean days or weeks of worry for all involved. However the good news is that microchip implants offer a far more reliable method of identifying your pet than the traditional collar and tag.



It is now law in the UK for any dog over eight weeks of age to be microchipped. All puppies must be chipped before leaving the breeder and should not leave their premises until they are eight weeks old.

Veterinary practices, the police and animal charities have microchip scanners and routinely scan strays. Should your pet go missing and be handed in as a stray, if they are microchipped, this will give you the best chance of them being reliably identified and returned to you. It's also very important to ensure your details are kept up-to-date with the microchip company and to notify them if any contact details have been changed. In the event your dog is not microchipped you could be liable for a fine of £500.

It is also a very good idea to have your cat microchipped! Cats can easily go missing as a result of road traffic accidents and, when found, are often taken to a local charity or veterinary practice. But without a microchip, a huge number are never reunited with their owners for one simple reason – they cannot be reliably identified.



Microchips are easy to implant and only need a routine consultation. If you need your pet microchipped or have any questions please don't hesitate to ask a member of staff.



Easter Opening Hours:



We hope you are all looking forward to a Happy Easter with friends and family. Over the Easter weekend our opening hours are:

Holy Thursday 29th March: We are open as normal from 8am to 8pm

Good Friday 30th March: We will be closed. An emergency service with Vets Now Sutton will be running from Maven Vets

Easter Saturday 31st March: We will be open as normal from 9am to 4pm

Easter Sunday 1st April: We will be closed. An emergency service with Vets Now Sutton will be running from Maven Vets

Illustrations: weebzy.com