

the latest

news from maven veterinary care



Cat's Corner

Kidney Disease in Cats

Kidney disease is one of the most common conditions seen in ageing cats, although it may be seen in cats of any age. The typical signs include an increase in thirst and urination, a reduction in appetite and weight loss.

To diagnose kidney disease, the vet will need to examine your cat and will also need to take a blood sample to check the kidney parameters. Often other tests are also required to properly diagnose kidney problems. These include a urine test to check for the kidneys ability to concentrate the urine and for urinary infections. Ideally, it is also recommended that a blood pressure measurement and ultrasound evaluation of the kidneys is performed.

Once diagnosed, treatment is indicated to help the kidneys to work more efficiently and to reduce ongoing damage to the kidneys. Unfortunately, kidney disease in cats cannot be cured but, in many cases, can be well managed allowing your cat to continue to live a happy life. There are a variety of treatments which can help cats with kidney disease which include dietary modification, medications and fluid therapy.

For more information on kidney disease in cats please visit our website www.mavenvets.co.uk/kidney-disease-in-cats where there



are also links to handouts from International Cat Care. Alternatively, if you are worried that your cat may be suffering from kidney disease please contact us on 0208 337 2214 to make an appointment.

May is Vet Nurse Awareness Month

Join us this May as we celebrate our team of fabulous Vet Nurses here at Maven! The role of a veterinary nurse is often a bit of a mystery as they usually work behind the scenes and so we wanted to take this chance to tell you a bit more about what our nurses do.

Consults: You may be aware that our nurses consult 7 days a week as well as our vets. Nurses can assess patients after surgeries, give medications, advise on nutrition, dental care, grooming and weight loss as well as running client information clinics for conditions such as diabetes.

Kennels: Each and every day we have a variety of patients in hospital at Maven. Some are day patients who are here for a procedure or operation and others are inpatients, requiring care and treatment over a longer period. A nurse is assigned each day to look after the patients while they are on the wards and will make sure they are all given the correct medications, treatments and TLC that they need.



Anaesthetists: During operations a nurse is responsible for monitoring the patient closely throughout their anaesthetic. Not only do they monitor and record several vital signs but also discuss with the vet any changes to the anaesthetic which may need to be made to keep the patient safe. This is an essential role which requires a lot of training.



Surgeries: Nurses play a vital role in preparing patients for surgeries. Not only do they clip patients and prepare their skin for surgery but they also make sure all equipment which is needed for the surgery is ready and sterilised in advance and they will assist the vet during the surgery if needed.

Phlebotomist and Lab Technician: Nurses are often responsible for collecting blood samples which patients require and for placing catheters so that patients can be connected to IV fluids if needed. Nurses are also trained to run blood samples and other tests in our in-house lab to get accurate results quickly. These are just a few examples of the varied roles our nurses have. If you would like more information on Veterinary Nursing or are interested in a career as a Veterinary Nurse, please just ask!

Summer Fairs

Fancy a fun day out this summer? Then why not come along to one of the local fairs we will be attending?

Each year the fairs prove to be great fun with stalls and entertainment for all the family. In addition, both of the fairs we are supporting this year also raise money for local charities. So why not pop along and say hello! This year we will be at:

Cheam Rotary Fair

Monday 28th May, Cheam Park

Morden Fun Day

Sunday 22nd July, Morden Park



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

Ticker trouble – is my pet affected?

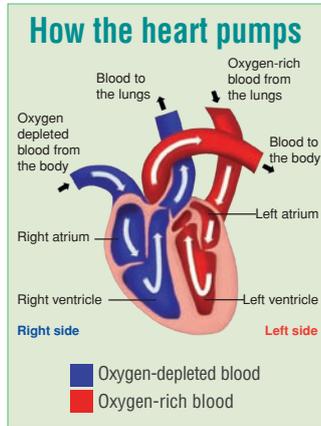


The heart is a large muscular pump, continuously pumping blood around the body. Like us, animals have four heart chambers, with valves to ensure that blood flows in only the forward direction. The heart is responsible for supplying the tissues of the body with oxygenated blood. The heart receives de-oxygenated blood from the tissues of the body and pumps it to the lungs where it is re-oxygenated. This re-oxygenated blood flows back to the heart, where it is then pumped back round the body. If the heart stops functioning properly, it can have serious consequences.

Some pets are born with heart defects. These can include small holes within the heart wall, valve malformations and abnormalities in the vessels leaving the heart. These defects can cause abnormalities to blood flow through the heart and vessels, usually causing a heart murmur which can be heard on examination.

Some pets will develop heart conditions later in life. The most common condition affecting small dogs is a degenerative disease of one of the heart valves, resulting in blood flowing backwards through the left hand side of the heart, usually causing a heart murmur. Larger dogs can suffer from valve disease, but are also predisposed to a condition where the heart dilates and is no longer able to pump blood as effectively. Affected dogs may or may not have a heart murmur.

In dogs, signs of heart disease include: reluctance to exercise, weakness or collapse and laboured or rapid breathing. Coughing can also be associated with heart disease.



It's getting hot out there!

We all love the warmer weather and summer is a great time to be outside with your pets, so here are some topical seasonal tips to keep them fit and healthy:

Parasite alert: It's important to ensure you are using adequate flea and tick protection. Check your pet after every walk to spot if any **ticks** have become attached. These can be anywhere – around the head, under the belly or in armpits. Ticks can be removed using a special tick device or in the surgery. There are a range of tablets, collars and spot-on products to kill ticks and fleas. **Fleas** can quickly multiply, especially in multi-pet households, so make sure all your animals are up to date with their treatments. Please ask us for advice on the best flea and tick products for your pets.

Heat stroke is caused by a drastic increase in body temperature, usually from periods of exercise in the sun. It is difficult to treat and often fatal. Most dogs do not know when to stop and will keep chasing balls despite becoming over-heated. It is very important not to play with your pet outside in the hot weather. Use paddling pools and ice cubes in water to help them keep cool, and walk your pets early in the morning and late in the evening. Remember, **NEVER** leave your pet in a warm car – with their furry coats they can over-heat very rapidly.



Guinea pigs and rabbits need to be kept in a cool, shaded area. If in direct sunlight they struggle to lose heat and can also succumb to heat stroke.

UV Alert: Cats with white noses and white ear tips are at risk of getting these areas sunburnt and this can lead to cancerous changes. High factor special pet safe sun creams applied to the at risk (white) areas helps to minimise this risk.



Ear tip of a cat showing cancerous changes



Flystrike is a huge problem in the summer months. Flies are attracted to moist and dirty areas to lay their eggs, which will rapidly hatch into maggots. This is especially concerning for bunny rabbits that can have periods of diarrhoea. Flies lay eggs within the coat and once hatched, the maggots feed on the skin. This condition is very painful and results in death in cases that are not treated rapidly. It is imperative to check your rabbit's fur twice daily, keep their hutches clean and treat any loose stools quickly. There are licenced products that can be applied to your rabbit's fur to prevent fly attraction.

Enjoy the summer months, have fun and keep your pets safe. If you would like any further information on summer hazards, please just ask a member of our practice team.



Cats are prone to developing a condition where the heart muscle excessively enlarges and results in a poorly functioning heart. This is very common, with around 1 in 7 cats of all ages affected. Older cats are at an increased risk. Signs of heart disease include reluctance to exercise, weakness or collapse and laboured or rapid breathing.

If you are concerned your pet is showing any signs of heart disease, please come and see us for a check-up. We may recommend imaging, such as chest x-rays and/or an ultrasound scan of your pet's heart. In some cases, blood tests and/or electrocardiography 'ECG' may also be helpful. The good news is that novel medications can delay the onset of heart failure or help manage the signs, thus improving length and quality of life for your pet. If you have any questions regarding your pet's heart health, please contact us at the surgery.

Be sure to insure!



Pet insurance is something that we advise all our owners consider for their animals. We know that vet bills are often unexpected and can mount up over time, so having a good policy will really combat the worry of being able to afford their care; whether it is a one-off misadventure or an on-going illness.

There are lots of companies offering pet insurance and picking one out can be daunting! Here are some tips:

- Choose a 'lifelong' policy – this should cover your pet for the whole duration of an illness, even if it is a permanent problem.
- Ensure there is a substantial amount claimable for every condition.
- Look at other benefits offered – these can include third party cover (vital if, for example, your dog slips the lead and causes a car accident),
- Check-out the potential for premium increases – some companies will increase them after a claim, whereas others will remain the same.

So – if you would like further information on the benefits of insuring your pet, please don't hesitate to contact a member of our team.