

# the latest

news from maven veterinary care



## Need to tablet your cat? No problem!

**Any cat owner will know the dread that often accompanies the vet saying, 'Just give Puss this course of tablets and they will be back to normal!'**

Tablets and cats... not always an easy combination! From carefully eating around a tablet hidden in food to having the ability to spit tablets to the most unreachable corner of the room, our feline friends can make this seemingly simple task very difficult! However, help is at hand. At Maven Vets we have created a video showing you how to successfully tablet your cat.

Available on our website [www.mavenvets.co.uk](http://www.mavenvets.co.uk), our guide illustrates these main points:

- Start in a room where your cat is calm. Keeping your cat calm is key and so, if they are getting worked up, take a break.
- It's ok to have help if you need it.
- If you are working on your own, keep your cat's body towards you and their head facing to the right (These instructions are written assuming you are right handed – if left handed please reverse the direction).
- Using your left hand gently stroke over your cat's face and feel their cheek bones (under their eyes).
- Take the tablet in your right hand
- Gently cup the head with your left hand from the top and hold the cheek bones.
- Slowly tilt your cat's head upwards so they look at the ceiling. As you do this their mouth will automatically open a little.
- Holding the head in this position, now take your right hand and gently pull down the lower jaw to open the mouth and drop the tablet to the back of the mouth.
- Let go of the mouth and lower the head but keep hold!
- Rub your cat's throat until they swallow.
- If your cat is 'leggy' and tries to use their paws to bat you away or, worse still, to scratch you then it may help to have a friend help you by gently restraining your cat's front legs from behind. Alternatively, you can wrap your cat's legs and body in a towel until you tablet them. Remember however that the main aim is to keep them calm.

**Watch our video on line or book an appointment with one of our nurses to teach you in person. And Good Luck!**

## VOTE FOR MAVEN'S PET OF THE YEAR 2017!

**It is nearly time once again to help us find our Maven Pet of the Year!**

As before, we have 12 nominees. Each of the 12 pets who are nominated for this prestigious award have won the title of Pet of the Month during 2017. Winners of the Pet of the Month award are decided by our team and are featured on our website. But the winner of the Pet of the Year 2017 title must be determined by YOU!

Voting will begin in December 2017 and the competition will be featured on our facebook page [www.facebook.com/mavenvets](http://www.facebook.com/mavenvets). To have a sneak preview of our 12 finalists and their stories, visit our website [www.mavenvets.co.uk/news/pet-of-the-month](http://www.mavenvets.co.uk/news/pet-of-the-month) and see who you will vote for!

**The Winner will be announced in early January 2018 and will feature in our Spring Newsletter.**



Coco Best • February 2017



Baygle Reader • August 2017



Luna Corrie • September 2017

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*  
**...from everyone at Maven Vets!**

As 2017 draws to a close and 2018 dawns we would like to wish all our clients and pets a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year! We hope you don't need to visit the vet over this festive period but if you do, we are here. Contact us as normal on 0208 337 2214 and you will be able to speak either to one of the Maven team or, if we are closed, to our out of hours emergency provider, Vets Now. Our normal opening hours over the festive period are:

Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Open as normal 8am-8pm
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	Open as normal 9am -4pm
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> December	Open as normal 10am -2pm
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> December	We are closed for the Bank Holiday (An emergency service with Vets Now will be running)
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> December	We are closed for the Bank Holiday (An emergency service with Vets Now will be running)
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> December	Open as normal 8am-8pm
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> December	Open as normal 9am-4pm
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> December	Open as normal 10am-2pm
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> January	We are closed for the Bank Holiday (An emergency service with Vets Now will be running)
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	We are closed for the Bank Holiday (An emergency service with Vets Now will be running)

### 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](http://www.mavenvets.co.uk)

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



## Winter Wonderland?

The cold winter months bring particular challenges for our pets, and as their owners, we need to be alert to the problems they can suffer at this time of year.

**Arthritis** is very commonly first diagnosed in older patients during the winter months. This isn't because the disease first strikes during this period but because the lower temperatures seize up the limbs and make the symptoms of pain and stiffness more obvious. Most pets will really benefit from anti-inflammatory medications but you can also help by giving them joint supplements, lovely soft beds, and many will enjoy resting by the radiator or on a pet-safe hot water bottle!

**Out and about:** Although the weather can be miserable, it is still important to ensure dogs get their walks! Make the most of the shorter days by playing games while you are out to give your pet mental as well as physical stimulation and short coated breeds like greyhounds and whippets often benefit from wearing coats. Take care though in snowy or icy conditions, as both can ball up in hairy paws and be painful. Also bad for feet is grit, which can really irritate the skin.

**Festive alert:** The festive season can also pose a huge range of very tempting hazards for our pets! **Chocolate** is a festive favourite, but as little as 50g of plain chocolate can be fatal in small dogs. **Turkey bones** can cause choking,



constipation, as well as seriously damaging internal organs. Make sure **fairy lights** and electric wires are 'chew-proof' from inquisitive puppies, kittens and even rabbits too. Brightly coloured **baubles** and **tinsel** are new and exciting objects for pets, who may try to eat them and cause themselves all sorts of internal problems. **Seasonal plants** such as holly, poinsettia, ivy and lilies are all extremely toxic.



Finally, have fun with your pets and stay safe over the festive season!



**Healthy eyes** are open and comfortable and free from discharge. Light is seen to reflect from the moist, healthy cornea

## How healthy are your dog's eyes?

The eyes are very complex organs and thankfully function normally most of the time. Externally the eyes are protected by the eyelids and also the third eyelid (in the corner of the eye).

**Healthy eyes:** Your dog's eyes should be open, sparkly-clear and free of discharge or excessive tearing. Inside, you can see the coloured part of the eye (the iris) and a pupil which responds to light. You can also gently draw back the upper eyelids to see the 'white' of the eye, which should be just that – white or only marginally pink.

However problems can occur and here are some common ones:

**Dry eye** occurs when there is inadequate production of tears by the tear glands and is normally an immune-mediated condition in dogs. Most commonly this is seen in middle to older-aged dogs as well as specific breeds. Typical signs include increased levels of thick, yellowish discharge from the eyes, pinkness of inner eyelids and white of the eyes. Discomfort may be noticeable, with increased blinking or rubbing at the eyes.

Happily, diagnosis of this condition can be made using a simple test to measure tear production. Once a diagnosis is made, treatment is necessary with an ointment containing ciclosporin which is usually applied twice daily to the affected eyes and life-long. Keeping this treatment consistent is important for the medication to work and for the eyes to stay comfortable. Many dogs also need lubricants applied regularly throughout the day.

**Cataracts:** A cataract occurs when the transparent lens inside the eye becomes opaque. Cataracts affecting the whole of the lens will cause blindness. Hereditary cataracts can present at various ages and in a large number of breeds. Cataracts are also commonly seen in diabetic dogs and these develop very quickly, causing blindness in just days or weeks. Advanced cataracts also cause inflammation inside the eye, which can lead to other problems including glaucoma (a high pressure inside the eye). Any eye with a cataract should therefore be monitored regularly. Cataract surgery to restore vision is possible in many cases and will require a referral to a specialist ophthalmologist.

**Glaucoma:** This is a high pressure inside the eye, which causes blindness if not treated appropriately and quickly. Changes you may notice include redness of the white of the eye, a clouding/ blueish colour to the cornea (front window) or lethargy due to pain. As such any dog presenting with this sort of "red eye" should be treated as an **ocular emergency**.

Early diagnosis is the 'golden rule' with eyes, so don't delay! If your pet is showing *any* symptoms of eye problems, make an appointment for your pet today!

All of our vets can assess your pet's eyes providing advice and treatment as required. In addition, Dr Chris Turner has a special interest in Ophthalmology and is part way to completing a certificate of further study in Ophthalmology.



**Dry eye** with a dull lustreless eye and mucoïd discharge



**Cataracts** in diabetic dogs are a very common issue



**Glaucoma** (high pressure) in this eye has caused redness of the white of the eye and a blueish clouding of the cornea

## Fireworks Safety



Our winter months bring with them many celebrations and often these involve fireworks. While these displays can be spectacular and thrilling for us, for our pets they often have the opposite effect.

Follow our top tips to keep your pet safe this firework season:

- Keep your cats and dogs indoors after dark
- Walk dogs early in the evening and always on the lead
- Draw your curtains
- Keep your TV or radio on loudly to minimise the noise of fireworks
- Provide a safe place for your dog or cat to hide if they want to

Talk to your vet now to establish whether your pet needs help to keep them calm during fireworks season. There are natural products as well as medication which may help your pet.