

the latest

news from maven veterinary care

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Maven's Pet of the Year for 2021



We are delighted to announce the Winner of Maven Vets' Pet of the Year 2021, is Chago Elliot. Chago was nominated as the Pet of the Month in November by our clinic team due to his brave battle with a life threatening tumour of his spleen. You can read about his full nomination story on our website:

<https://www.mavenvets.co.uk/news/chago/>

Maven's Pet of the Year 2021 competition was voted for anonymously by our clinic team. Each of the nine pets who have won the Pet of the Month during the year are eligible for entry. This year, Chago won by a landslide.

His owners were delighted to hear the news. This is what they had to say:

Can you tell us a bit about Chago's illness and why he was nominated for Pet of the Year?

Chago had complications with his spleen. Luckily, the day I noticed I was off work. He was in a very bad way. Thankfully, he pulled through. The vets did an amazing job and I know he was in very good hands. He's made a great recovery and we are all eternally grateful.



What makes Chago special to you and why do you think he deserved to win?

Chago is very special to our family and has made many friends during his life. He's very well trained and has had an amazing life. He's very clever and has quite the personality. He's full of character and he creates smiles everywhere he goes. He's my best friend and the bond we share is incredible.

What does it mean to you that Chago has won the award?

When I found out he won pet of the month I was very happy. Then when I was informed he'd won pet of the year it put a massive smile on my face. So nice when I tell people as well, the smile on everyone's face! Makes me feel very happy knowing he was in such good hands and everyone looked after him well and bonded with him. I'm very happy he has won the award. Very grateful to all the team at Maven vets. Very lucky to have our beautiful dog here still with us and although was very hard to go through, the way in which it was dealt with was very reassuring and helpful. So proud of this dog. He makes an impression on whoever he meets and has achieved so many accolades during his life, makes me feel very fulfilled. So nice when he receives recognition and I will be telling everyone about him receiving this award.

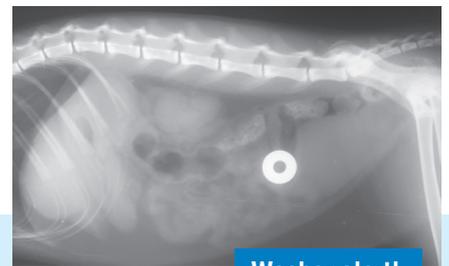
Bank Holiday Opening Times!

We hope you won't need to visit us over the summer period with your poorly pets, but if you do, we are here. Contact us as normal on **0208 337 2214** and you will be able to speak to one of our Maven Team, or, if we are closed, our out-of-hours emergency provider Vets Now.

OUR OPENING TIMES OVER THE BANK HOLIDAY PERIODS ARE:

Monday 2nd May Early May Bank Holiday	We are Closed*
Thursday 2nd June Spring Bank Holiday	We are Closed*
Friday 3rd June Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday	We are Closed*
Monday 29th August Summer Bank Holiday	We are Closed*

*An emergency service will be running with Vets Now. In case of emergency, please call 02081270393.



Washer alert!

Pets commonly swallow items which require surgery to remove them, however it's not every day that a kitten swallows a washer! Happily, surgery resolved the issue.

Pet insurance for peace of mind!

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.

money per year. A **time-restricted policy** means that you can claim per condition, usually for 12 months only. If your pet has an on-going condition such as diabetes or arthritis, the cover expires after the time period. A **condition-restricted policy** means that you can claim up to a certain amount per condition.

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.

There are several different types of cover to choose from: The top cover is a **lifetime policy** where your pet is covered for a condition for life, usually up to a certain amount of

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

Cat Friendly Corner



The summer months are finally on the way! Cats love the warm weather as much as we do but there are a few considerations we must make to keep them safe and well during the warmer weather.

KEEPING YOUR CAT COOL

It is important to always provide cool fresh water for your cat, this may require you to place a bowl in various places around the house or garden. Did you know cats prefer their water to be kept away from their food and ideally in a shallow wide bowl, so their whiskers do not touch the sides? Some also prefer running water and this is where a running tap or water fountain are preferred. Encouraging water intake will ensure they are kept well hydrated this summer.

Keep on top of grooming – especially for long haired cats and older cats who struggle with this, they may need a daily brush if this is tolerated or a visit to the surgery so we can help keep them a bit more comfortable and cool! If you do notice your cat is grooming more than normal when it is especially hot it is their way to beat the heat as when the saliva evaporates off the fur it will cool them down.

Cooling mats are a great way to help keep cats cool, they can be placed in their usual sleeping area or bed to encourage use.

GETTING SHUT IN

We all know cats are very curious and like somewhere quiet to hide but this can lead to trouble if they accidentally get shut into hot sheds, greenhouses or garages. If your cat is gone for longer than normal never hesitate to speak to neighbours, call for them and ensure they are microchipped with up to date details so you can be contacted should this happen.

Open windows; Be aware of open windows as your cat will be intrigued by this new exit route! They may enjoy sitting on the windowsill taking in the breeze but unfortunately cats will fall from great heights and can cause themselves serious damage.

HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS CAUSED BY THE HEAT

White cats or those with white ears/noses are at risk of sun damage to their skin. A high factor non-toxic waterproof sun cream should be applied when they are going outside. If you notice any crusting, sore areas to the skin, veterinary attention should be sought.

Signs of heatstroke include collapse, excess panting, lethargy – if you see any of the signs get them out of the sun and contact us immediately.

For older cats who struggle to groom and clean themselves, they could be at risk of fly strike if going out with a soiled coat/back end so please check regularly to prevent this from happening.

When days that are exceptionally hot it is best to keep your cat indoors when the sun is strongest.

By Gemma Hewitt RVN.



Summertime survival guide!

Summer is here at last! But when the heat turns up, the dangers to pets increase too. To keep your dog, cat and other furry friends safe, make sure you are prepared. To help you with this, we've put together some top summer survival tips:

Keep it cool! It is vital to ensure your pet keeps cool in hot weather. Dogs should be walked early or late in the day to avoid heat stroke. Paddling pools may help keep dogs cool and they should have free access to water at all times. Heat stroke is a common, and serious, problem and over-weight or heavily coated dogs are most at risk.

Guinea pigs and rabbits also need to be able to keep cool and it is vitally important that they have access to shade at all times, plus cool water – preferably in a bowl. Also consider moving their accommodation to somewhere cooler in hot weather.

Slip slap sloop! Cats generally enjoy sunbathing but they can be at risk of overheating. The other concern for cats with pale coloured ears or noses is the risk of sun burn. Repeated exposure to UV light has been shown to be a risk factor for them developing a type of tumour called a squamous cell carcinoma. High factor **special sunblock for pets** applied to the at risk (white) areas helps to minimise this risk.



Flystrike: Sadly with summer comes flies. Most healthy rabbits on an appropriate fibre rich diet will have a clean bottom. However some rabbits, for various reasons, can be prone to a dirty bottom. This then attracts flies which lay eggs

on the skin with the resulting maggots eating away at the delicate tissue – a so called fly strike. Fly strike is best avoided by keeping bottoms clean at all times, checking the area twice a day for eggs and if needed applying a product that inhibits the eggs from hatching.

Grass awns are another summer problem – the grass awns of the meadow grasses are easily trapped in the coats of pets. They then migrate and become lodged in a variety of places including the ears and between the toes. It is always a good idea to groom your pets regularly to keep a close eye out for grass awns.

So – enjoy the summer months, have fun and keep your pets safe. We are here to help, so if you would like any further information on summer hazards, please just ask!



Paddling pools are a great way for dogs to stay cool in the summer!



Ear tip of a cat showing cancerous changes with skin reddening.



Grass awns of the summer grasses are a perennial hazard

Kennel Cough – is your dog vaccinated?



Did you know that kennel cough is a highly infectious, but rarely life-threatening, respiratory infection that can spread from dog to dog wherever they socialise – in kennels, at dog training, dog shows or just out on walks?

Affected pets usually develop a harsh “honking” cough, which often sounds as if they have got something stuck in their throats (but don't worry – this is very rare!). Other symptoms include loss of appetite and breathlessness. In the worst cases, dogs may cough for weeks and some may get more serious complications such as pneumonia.

The condition is caused by a mixture of viruses and a bacterium – *Bordetella Bronchiseptica*. Prevention is much better than cure, because without vaccination, treatment of kennel cough can be a costly and lengthy process. Only an annual vaccination with a specific kennel cough vaccine can offer protection against *Bordetella*. So – don't take any chances with this distressing cough – make sure your pet is vaccinated. Kennel cough vaccination is also a key requirement of most boarding kennels. Please contact us today for further information or to book an appointment!

This Newsletter is provided as an education service to our clients. All news and other items in this newsletter are for information only and should not be treated as a substitute for veterinary advice. For all images, the copyright is the property of the photographer.

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