

Puppy Parties

Do you have a new puppy?
Then we'd LOVE to meet them!



Winter
2015/16



Socialisation

It looks and sounds like a big, important word, and indeed it is when it comes to ensuring that your puppy will mature into a friendly, adult dog that will live life to the full. Now you have taken on your puppy, you owe it to them to ensure they grow into a well-adjusted dog, happy in the company of people and other animals.

Our Puppy Classes are an opportunity for newly vaccinated puppies to socialise with other puppies at the practice, whilst giving you the owner a chance to ask us all sorts of questions about your new family member! Each course is open for up to 5 puppies, ranging between 8 -16 weeks old.

We provide advice on all aspects of responsible pet ownership:
neutering - fleas - worming - basic training - behaviour - socialisation

Classes are run over 3 weeks at our Elm Park practice, and puppies must have received their 1st vaccination. Starting at 7:30pm on a Monday, the class is approximately 1 hour, and each week has a different theme.

The course is £15.00, which includes attendance to all 3 parties, plus a free puppy pack to take home!

Call Elm Park on 01708 458424 to reserve your puppy a place.

Seasonal Safeguards

Antifreeze is sweet-tasting to animals, but is poisonous and potentially fatal if ingested by your pet. Clear away spills asap, and do not allow your dog to drink from water puddles by the roadside.

Winter salt & grit are nasty irritants to paws, so do rinse off after walks.



Fairy lights mean extra cables. Beware of pets chewing on wires and connectors.

Tinsel and baubles are a great attraction for your cat and dog, but may end up decorating the inside of their stomachs instead of the tree!

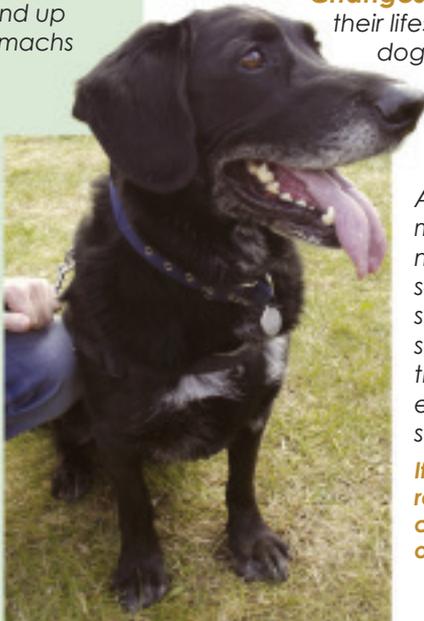
Chocolate is poisonous to our pets and sadly can be fatal if eaten. Store chocolate in any form out of your pet's reach.

Grapes and raisins are toxic to dogs. If ingested, they can cause kidney failure.

Treats - too many, may cause stomach upsets and unhealthy weight gain.

Turkey Bones can get lodged in the mouth, throat or intestines. So a big 'no no' for your pets!

Small furry pets outside require daily checks, plenty of warm bedding and unfrozen water.



Creaky Joints

Your much-loved family dog has begun to occasionally limp. You also notice a slight stiffness as they get out of their comfy bed. Your dog is a little reluctant to go for walks, and that enthusiasm for playing games has disappeared.

These could all be signs that your pet has developed osteoarthritis, which causes inflamed, stiff, painful joints. Fortunately this condition, which generally affects middle-aged and older dogs, can often be treated. So if your dog is showing the slightest stiffness or limping, then let us check them over here at the surgery. If we do diagnose osteoarthritis, there are options available to assist with easing pain and improving movement.

How and Why? Cartilage that helps cushion joints and protect bones begins to deteriorate. Bones thicken in an attempt to protect the ends. This continues, only to cause more pain, more inflammation and gradually restricts mobility.

Changes Treatment and fine-tuning their lifestyle can happily help your dog lead a better quality of life again. We may suggest a prescription course of medication, to ease pain and reduce inflamed joints.

A good weight needs to be maintained, as extra kilos mean extra strain on those sore joints! Correct and suitable exercise is important, so we can advise you on that too. There are even special foods and supplements available.

If you have any concerns regarding your pet's health, call for an appointment with our friendly, experienced vets.



Harold Hill

01708 344455 01708 386046

Monday to Friday 9am - 6.30pm

Saturday 9am - 12.30pm

Elm Park

01708 458424 01708 438039

Monday to Friday 9am - 6.30pm

Saturday 4pm - 6.30pm

Sunday 10am - 6.30pm ★

Consultations by Appointment
24 hour 7 day
Emergency Service

www.hillparkvets.co.uk

01708 344455

Fireworks Safety for Pets

Dogs, cats and small furries can get spooked by loud bangs. Follow these top tips to keep anxious pets calm.

Top Tips for Firework Fright

1. Keep your pets secured **INSIDE** your house. Even dogs in fenced yards find ways to escape the scary sounds.
2. Give them a safe place to hide. Set up a comfortable room or crate in your house just for them.
3. Use ambient noise to mask the sounds. A radio or TV playing comforting music works well.
4. Update their IDs and microchips (just in case).
5. Skip the celebration and stay home with them. Your presence can make all the difference.
6. Keep them busy. Treat toys like Kongs can help distract them during the display.

Preparing in advance to combat Firework Fright is best. We are here with plenty of help for nervous pets and advice for owners.

Ask about our **SCARY SPECIALS**. We have discounts available on our anxiety products.



WELL DONE!

Congratulations from all of us at Hillpark to Eloise for passing her nursing course. She is now a fully qualified Veterinary Nurse!



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The Pet Alphabet

Neutering prevents pyometra, mammary tumours, related cancers and unwanted pregnancies.

Otodectes is an ear mite infection, and causes inflammation, irritation and a dark waxy discharge.

Pyometra is a serious infection of the uterus (womb) in unneutered females and requires **urgent** veterinary treatment. Signs include lethargy, vaginal discharge, excessive drinking.

Quick (dermis) lays under claws and over bone, and if cut during nail clipping, is very painful and will bleed! Let our experienced nurses trim your pet's nails proficiently.

Ringworm is a skin fungus, and can be transmitted from direct contact with or where an infected animal has been.

Socialising and familiarising your puppy with a wide range of experiences in their first 3 months, helps with development and behaviour into adulthood.



Ticks are blood-sucking parasites that require a host to attach to.... your dog or cat! Ensure protection is maintained, as ticks can cause skin problems and transmit Lyme disease.

Urinary tract disease covers a range of conditions affecting the bladder and urethra. Signs such as frequent urination or blood in the urine, need checking out asap.

Vets must study for five to six years to become a qualified Veterinary Surgeon.

Worms are a risk to all cats or dogs. Some also pose a threat to humans, so please ensure your pet is given regular and effective treatments.

X-Ray provides images of a patient's skeletal structure should we suspect injuries, for example from a road traffic accident or fall.

Yeast infections of the skin can initially produce a rash or itching, which becomes intense and produces an odour. Signs of scratching or redness, then we should take a look.

Zoonotic is the term used for a disease or infection that can pass from animals to humans.

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Published by Vetarazzi.co.uk 01787 828361