



Puppy Alert!

Having a new puppy is exciting, fun and should be a happy time for all involved. He or she will look to you for a lifetime of love, food, security and care, but before their little paws step inside your door, please do your research first. What breed and size can your home and lifestyle accommodate? Caring for a pet takes a lot of time.

Your puppy that will become an adult dog likes company, so consider how much time can you actually devote to your new family member.

Are you out all day? How much exercise can you give?

Do you have a large family to care for?

A puppy is extra and quite hard work and can demand your attention day and night!

Who will care for your dog if you go away, and what cost would this entail?

Can you commit to the lifetime care of a dog?

Will your budget suit a pet? Quality food, vaccinations, flea and worming treatments are needed, to help keep your pet healthy.

If after your research and questioning you feel this is the right step, then most importantly..... **where will you get your puppy from?**

Sadly, in the media we have seen reports of very sick puppies being sold for tremendous amounts of money to the unsuspecting public. One very poorly puppy was actually sold to and collected by the new owner at a motorway services, and very sadly died just a few days later.

It is so vitally important that you fully research where your puppy originated. With research you can avoid funding **puppy farms** and **irresponsible breeders**.

Where do you start?

1. Registered breeders and rescue centres are a good place to begin. Most are reputable and run by honest people who responsibly breed their dogs, and take great care of the puppies until they are ready to go to their new homes.
2. Maybe a friend or family member has bred their own pet who has produced a litter.
3. When viewing the puppies, they and the premises should be clean and warm.
4. You should see their Mum too. If not, be very wary and ask where Mum is!
5. At rescue centres, if possible obtain some history on how the puppy came to be there.

NEVER BUY A PUPPY FROM.....

A place with numerous adult breeds and many litters of puppies - The back of a van - Motorway services - The street - A boot fair - NEVER allow the puppy to be delivered to you.

When wrong or hasty decisions are made it can be a heartbreaking disaster for the puppy and owner. We have plenty of advice and information to help you make the right choice, and are more than happy to discuss in detail about having a new pet. The right start for you both, is the way forward to a long, successful and happy life together.



Welcome Back.....to a New Normal!

Well that was certainly the strangest few months that all of us went through! From social distancing with our clients to consult appointments over the phone, we have still managed to care for your pets during COVID-19, which shows that no matter what is thrown at us, we will do whatever is necessary to provide veterinary care for our animal community. We would like to give a big heartfelt thank you to all our clients, for your amazing understanding and patience while full lockdown was in action. We fully understood how difficult it must have been for you at an already very anxious time, to have your pet poorly too.

Happily now with the easing of lockdown, we can begin to return to normality, but with caution. We like to call it a 'new normal' and although we can all now move around more easily, we still have some protocols in place for when you visit our practice, as the safety and health of all concerned is paramount.



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

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01708 344455

The Cat's Whiskers



A way of saying that something is near perfect!

Cats are remarkably athletic creatures that jump great heights, balance on the thinnest ledges, and squeeze through the smallest gaps. Their long beautiful whiskers greatly contribute to these amazing talents!

Whiskers are long, stiff hairs, which grow around the mouth and face, above the eyes, on the jawline and the back of the front legs. Also known as **vibrissae**, whiskers are actually a cat's own sonar system!

How do they work? Whiskers are deeply embedded to firmly connect to the cat's muscular and nervous systems. These stiff hairs send information to the cat's sensory nerves. Whisker tips have sensitive sensors called proprioceptors, which assist the cat in judging distance, width and direction. The magical squeezing through a narrow space, gracefully leaping onto a thin ledge, even responding to air vibrations when catching mice, are all the workings of these wonderful whiskers! It is quite natural for a cat to shed whiskers and grow new ones. **Never cut or trim whiskers**, as a cat would be quite lost, scared and confused without them! These beautiful 'sonar' whiskers are truly an astounding part of your cat's anatomy!

Published by www.vetarazzi.co.uk 01284 361429

Apples on the ground can have wasps inside feeding on the fruit. Our pets cannot resist snapping, pawing and chasing wasps, which can result in a nasty, painful sting! Swelling, particularly around the face or mouth, drooling, difficulty breathing or collapse, then do not delay in calling us, as some cats and dogs can be allergic to stings.

Use caution when placing the Halloween goodies by the front door ready for your trick or treat visitors. Chocolate and sweets are toxic to pets if eaten.

take care if you come across conkers or acorns. Both contain substances aesculin/tannic acid, which can be toxic to dogs. Signs of anxiety, vomiting, diarrhoea, pain or dehydration....call us immediately.

under wood and leaf piles hedgehogs like to nest and feed on insects such as earwigs and woodlice in preparation for hibernation. **Before** lighting any autumn bonfires, please check our prickly friends are not inside!

mulch is from old, damp, rotting, fallen leaves, and is the perfect breeding ground for mould spores and bacteria, which can be harmful to your pet if ingested.

now is the time to do repairs to rabbit and guinea pig hutches in preparation for the cold, wet winter months so as to keep your small furies warm and dry.

Don't ease up on your cat or dog's flea treatments. Maintain regular protection as these nippy little parasites are a year round problem!

always keep your dog away from any mushrooms or toadstools that appear in your garden or are found on walks. It's difficult to separate good from bad and the latter can be highly toxic!

your dog's late afternoon walk in the autumnal sun, can soon turn to dusk with the nights drawing in. Ensure your dog wears a reflective or lighted collar.

see tiny orange/red flecks on your cat's skin?

These could be **Harvest Mites**, which are only just visible to the naked eye. Active in the late summer and autumn days, these cause extreme irritation for your cat. Treatment and prevention is available, so if your cat is excessively scratching and nibbling, please call us.



Five Top Tips for Firework Fright

1. Create a safe haven for your dog or cat in one room of your house.
2. Keep your pets indoors.
3. Comforting your pet can reinforce their worry. Playing a game during the whizzes and bangs can encourage confidence.
4. NEVER punish or scold a fearful pet.
5. Use a pheromone diffuser or spray.

Preparing in advance to combat Firework Fright is best. We are here with plenty of help for nervous pets and advice for owners, so please call us now to discuss the appropriate therapy for your pet.



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