

# Bursting Bulbs!



Spring  
2023

It really is great when all the pretty spring flowers begin shooting up from the earth. Just a small sign that winter is leaving us and spring has well....sprung! Cats explore the outdoors more and dogs love a good old dig. We know just how inquisitive our pets are and enjoy sniffing out weird items to play with or even eat! There are many plants that are harmless to our pets, but unfortunately some springtime bulbs are potentially dangerous if ingested.

**Tulips** can irritate your pet's mouth and gastrointestinal tract, plus **Hyacinths** and **Irises** are all poisonous to cats and dogs. Every part of these plants has toxins, but the **bulb is the most dangerous as it holds the highest concentration of toxins**. The **daffodil** bulb is another to watch out for and the yellow flowers are also poisonous. If you have daffodils in a vase in your home, be sure your pet does not drink the water as this can cause problems too.

### Signs of spring flower/bulb poisoning

- vomiting ● diarrhoea ● abdominal pain ● drooling
- lethargy ● depression ● breathing difficulties ● fits

*If you see or suspect that your pet has eaten even a small amount or had contact with a potentially dangerous flower or bulb, please do not wait for signs to appear, contact a vet immediately for advice.*



## Harold Hill

01708 344455 01708 386046

Monday to Saturday  
9am - 6.30pm

## Elm Park

01708 458424 01708 438039

Monday to Friday  
9am - 6.30pm  
Sunday 10am - 6.30pm ★

Consultations by Appointment  
24 hour 7 day  
Emergency Service

www.hillparkvets.co.uk  
01708 344455



## Stranger Things

When we think of our cats eating, tasty nutritious food comes to mind, but there are some felines out there that head for the strangest of items to eat and it's not food!

**Pica** is a condition where cats eat unusual items such as wool, rubber bands, tissues, paper, fabrics, leather.... in fact there was one cat who was partial to eating the fingers of rubber gloves and munching on the dish cloth! The owner would regularly find holes in the cloth and fingers missing from the glove to the point where both items had to be stored under the sink. At first it may seem comical as all pets do eat weird things at times, but when the need to eat these items becomes a regular occurrence, then it's time to get your kitty checked out! Obviously there are the potentially harmful internal affects of eating non-food items, but the reason **why** they are displaying this behaviour has to be investigated. The underlying cause needs to be found.

**Is your pet in pain? Developed a physical problem? Could be behavioural? Is he or she stressed or bored? Has nutritional deficiencies?**

**Eating non-food items may cause a blockage.** If you notice any of the signs below please contact us **immediately**.

- vomiting ● loss of appetite for regular food
- constipation ● lethargy ● coughing or retching

### Book an Appointment

If your cat is displaying Pica, then it is time to bring he or she along to the surgery so we can discuss this issue. We can perform a full examination and do some tests to rule out any medical issue that could be causing Pica. If all seems okay on the physical side, then we can investigate their lifestyle and history. This may help shed some light on the consumption of these strange items. Both vet and owner will need to pop their detective hats on for a while to help solve the underlying cause!



# Can I take your order please?

How many of us have been in a restaurant, seen the delights on offer and could not resist choosing the unhealthiest food item off the menu? We promise ourselves that when at home we will eat nutritious and well-balanced meals to help keep us healthy. Pet rabbits have to rely on their owners to provide healthy food. **If you thought a handful of pretty coloured rabbit food and a few lettuce leaves were sufficient, then we urge you to read on!** A regular well-balanced diet, which is a correct mix of nutrients in the food, is **essential** to keep your pet healthy and happy.

**Rabbit's teeth grow continuously**, so they need food that will help grind and keep them at an even length. Overgrown teeth can cause eating problems, facial cuts and abscesses. They can also prevent a rabbit from grooming properly.

### What Food and Why

Many of the dried mixes help to provide a well-balanced diet, but it can mean that rabbits will eat only the tasty bits, and leave the essential nutrients behind.

**All in one pellet mix** is better.

**Hay and Grass** will provide a high source of fibre, which helps the digestive system to function correctly and grinds those teeth too.

**Fruit and vegetables** can be given, but limit the amount as too much can cause stomach upsets.

We are very happy to provide full advice on caring for and feeding your pet.



# Dinner Time



Dinner is probably the highlight of your pet's day, but are you feeding your furry friend the correct diet?

**So Many to Choose** Yes, it can all be rather confusing! Is this one right for my dog? Will my cat like the jelly? Dry or wet food? Carbs, minerals, proteins, fats, vitamins.....help!

**The most important point is to ensure your pet is fed a balanced diet** that suits their age, breed, size and any medical conditions. This can help keep your pet active, healthy and maintain a correct weight.

**What do we mean by a balanced diet?** This is a correct mix of **nutrients** in the food to suit a pet's individual requirements.

**What is a nutrient?** It is an element in food that is of good value in the diet. **Carbohydrates** are great for energy but for those pets prone to weight gain, too much may prove a problem. **Foods lower in magnesium**

may benefit cats with urinary problems, and if your dog suffers from an **allergy condition**, after a thorough examination, then a dietary change could be the answer. Weight loss, diarrhoea, low energy levels and obesity are just a few signs that may indicate your pet's diet is incorrect, however there are other conditions that can display these signs, so it is always best for your pet to have a check-up.

**Treats** We all like giving those to our pets, and providing there are no medical conditions prohibiting treats from their diet, it is usually okay, **BUT** these should always be of **good quality** and included as part of their daily quantity of food. There are many shops and supermarkets selling an array of treats from bones to chews. Some may be imported from abroad. Please be very careful with your choice, as there have been reports of pets becoming seriously ill after eating certain treats, and sadly some cases have been fatal.

**Prescription diets are available for many types of medical conditions. For more information give our team a call so they can help you 'balance' your pet's diet.**

**The Ideal Bunny Menu**  
**Starter**  
 An 'all in one' pellet mix  
**Main Meal of the Day**  
 Free access to unlimited good quality hay & grass  
**Dessert**  
 Occasional fruit and vegetables

## Arnold's Ailments

Hello is that you doc?...Well I am in a state  
 Why you ask? I have put on some weight!  
 I do not know how, but I have to admit  
 My new spring collar now does not fit!

The red one's my favourite, I just cannot be fat  
 And he laughs at me, that next door cat!  
 Doc, I need you to tell me if I am too stout  
 I'll be down in a jiffy, you can check me out

"I can see" said the vet "you've been too greedy  
 Pleading with your mum when you're not really needy  
 For more food, extra goodies, too tired for a walkie  
 You'd rather lay around indoors getting porky"  
 Diabetes, heart troubles are less likely to begin  
 If you can just stay healthy, lively and thin  
 It also helps prevent arthritis in your knees  
 So you can run and play with much more ease  
 We'll help you lose those pounds off your podge  
 Just be determined to leave out the stodge

Take more exercise and follow a new diet plan  
 You'll soon wear that red collar whenever you can!



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