

# Open Wide!

Come along now, pretty please, just a little bit more so I can take a look inside ....that's it.....there that wasn't so bad?

If only all cats could be like the one in our picture! Examining a cat's mouth is not always that easy, as generally our independent feline friends do not like

to be messed with. They will accept all the fussing, pampering and scrumptious treats their owners bestow upon them, but when it comes to giving pills or dental checks, those jaws are firmly shut tight!

Unfortunately when cooperation is not forthcoming, the start of major problems can be overlooked, and it is only when they show signs of discomfort or are reluctant to eat that you realise trouble is brewing.

Some felines are more prone to suffering from inflammatory mouth diseases, which if not treated can cause serious complications. Inflamed swollen gums (gingivitis), ulcers or cuts on the tongue and roof of the mouth, can be an extremely painful experience for your cat.

## Signs to watch out for are

- ❖ Excessive drooling
- ❖ Bleeding gums
- ❖ Irritable or depressed
- ❖ Difficulty or reluctance to eat
- ❖ Bad breath
- ❖ Trouble grooming

If you notice any of the above or suspect something is not quite right, please bring your cat in for a check-up. If we should find a problem, and once the vet has assessed the type of oral disease, we can discuss the different forms of treatment available here at our surgery. Of course, you are always welcome to bring your cat for regular dental checks to help prevent oral disease. **Ask about our Nurse Clinics**, where you can obtain advice on oral care, and also guidance on how to confidently examine your pet's mouth. **Any questions? Then please do call us.**



Summer 2014



## Romford UK to Balatonalmadi Hungary .... in one month!



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

01708 344455

If you are vet and sport enthusiast like **Olga Tretter**, then a plane may not be your preferred mode of transport! Olga, who joined us at Hillpark in November 2012, began quite a journey back to her homeland of Hungary on 3 June 2014 .....not by plane, train or car, but on her bike!

The idea for this epic journey entailing 2,200 kilometres of pedalling, was hatched one sunny August day in 2013 at Lake Balaton. As Olga enjoys challenges, and meeting new people, the idea has now become reality, as she pedals her way through the European countries of England, The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, France, Austria and phew....finally Hungary. If you would like to read more and follow her on travels, or make a donation to help her treat the animal strays and waifs on her journey, then you can visit her blog pages at [www.uktohu.blogspot.com](http://www.uktohu.blogspot.com)

We wish her lots of luck on her challenge and say 'Bon Voyage Olga' from all of us here at Hillpark!

There's still time..... to book your pet a ticket to accompany you on your holidays abroad this year. It's quite a simple process to obtain a **PETS Passport** for your four-legged friend, which will allow them to travel easily between the qualifying countries. To gain successful re-entry to the UK from EU and listed non-EU countries, the regulations just need to be completed in this exact order.

1. Microchip your pet.
2. Vaccinate against rabies and wait 21 days.
3. Obtain from us a documented EU PETS Passport.
4. Before returning to the UK, ensure that your pet is treated for tapeworm by a vet, not less than 24 hours, and not more than 5 days (120 hrs) prior to your scheduled arrival in the UK.

If you are embarking on a short trip, number 4 can actually be completed with us before you go.

Call our reception for more details.



# Stay Cool



It has been known for the UK to have long hot summers, but no matter what the season is here, it is notoriously unpredictable! This is why, as pet owners we must be aware that a cool summer day, can suddenly turn into a bit of a scorcher.

**Heatstroke** (hyperthermia) a rise in body temperature, can affect our pets, even when the sun is not shining. Warm, cloudy and humid weather, can cause the heat to rise in cars, conservatories, your home and in the garden. If the sun does show its face, such places become even hotter, and as an animal's cooling system is not as efficient as ours, your pet can very quickly become overheated and dehydrated. If their temperature reaches a high level, damage can occur to organs and the cell system.

## Prevent It

**Never** leave your pet in the car, not even with the windows open. They will cook in minutes! Provide plenty of **fresh, cool, clean drinking water**.

Take the daily walks in the **cooler early morning or late evening air**, and don't allow **over exertion**.

Ensure **access to shady cooler areas** in and outdoors.

Most pets enjoy a good snooze in the sun, but please **encourage the forty winks in the shade**.

Place rabbit and guinea pigs' housing, outside run and water **in the shade**. Ensure the hutch has good ventilation.

## Recognise the Signs

Increased panting ☀ Disorientation  
Anxious ☀ Pacing ☀ Distress  
Reluctant or unable to rise  
Dark gums ☀ Excessive or thick saliva  
Collapse ☀ Loss of consciousness

**The Key** Pets can recover from heatstroke, but **early recognition and prompt action is essential**.

**If at any time you think your pet is suffering from this condition, immediately move them to a cool area, and call your vet.**



## Treatment for your pet.... and it won't cost you a penny!

Ah yes..... the great outdoors, where your dog can enjoy exercise, investigate exciting scents and generally have fun, plus it is just one of the many ways you can help them keep fit, healthy and it's free!

Maintaining your pet's weight and providing regular exercise to suit their lifestyle, will help keep those conditions at bay that many overweight pets suffer from, such as heart disease, diabetes and arthritis.

### Our Nurse Clinics are also Free

where you and your pet can come along for friendly and informative advice on suitable exercise, nutrition and have regular weigh-ins to keep a check on their weight. Should your pet be a tad stout, our nurses can help them shed those few extra pounds, and remember it's not just our canine friends that we need to concentrate on.

**Cats** are famously known for their sedate, sleepy lifestyle and have no problem in clearing the plates at meal times, so it's just as important to maintain their weight and encourage playtime too!

## Bunny's Worries

*If you are thinking of getting a bunny  
There is a serious side that is not at all funny  
To be a responsible pet owner you must take heed  
Of the correct and loving care we really do need*

*For us to be happy and live a healthy long life  
You must provide attention and no mean strife  
As for some the novelty of us creeps into decline  
And for any kept pet this is one big danger sign*

*We are living creatures needing good care not bad  
Otherwise our rabbit lives are forever so sad  
We sit ignored in the corner of a cold lonely hutch  
With no means of escape or feeling a friendly touch*

*In the wild we have friends as we live in a big group  
Grazing on delicious grass and looping the loop  
As pets we still need fresh air company the right food  
These things and more will keep us in a happy mood*

*So if you do feel that two of us cute gentle rabbits  
Will fit well and enjoyably into your daily habits  
That you'll always protect and give us attention daily  
And provide a large safe run to play in so gaily*

*Please take us to the vet if we get ill with the sneezes  
Vaccinate us regularly against infectious diseases  
Then 'YES' we shout do give us a happy nice home  
With love and great care we'll never feel sad or alone*



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89 Coronation Drive **Elm Park** RM12 5BT



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