

Waste No Time!

In the world of veterinary care, illness, accidents and emergencies are all part of our daily life. The sooner we see a poorly animal the better. However, we know it is not always possible to immediately bring your pet to us, but there is a condition where time is not on our side, and for us rings major alarm bells! This condition is called **Bloat**.

Bloat or *Gastric Dilatation Volvulus (GDV)* is when a dog's stomach literally does bloat. This can then lead to serious complications and unfortunately life-threatening circumstances. Any breed is at risk from Bloat, but more prone are the **larger** or **deep-chested** breeds such as the Great Dane, Doberman, St Bernard, Irish Wolfhound, Weimaraner, Irish Setter, German Shepherd and Greyhounds.

Take one dog.....

His stomach, high in the abdomen, holds fluids, some gas and has a busy process going on, receiving and digesting food. In general, this all goes like clockwork. However, suddenly it all changes. His stomach begins to inflate. Our dog is now experiencing intense pain, and as the condition rapidly worsens and the stomach continues to increase in size, it begins to twist, cutting off the blood supply to the stomach and also the exit for gas to escape. This is known as **Gastric Torsion**.

Are your Pet's Booster Vaccinations Overdue?

Here at Hillpark your pet's health is our number one priority, so we are greatly concerned at the moment, as our records show that many of your pets' booster vaccinations have lapsed.

Maintaining boosters plays a key role in their well-being. If we want our pets to remain healthy, protected and keep infectious diseases at a low level in the animal community, then **yearly boosters are very important as**

- Diseases are spread via direct contact with or where an infected animal has been.
- They can also be carried on paws, clothing and shoes.
- Some viruses survive in the environment for long periods of time.



The dog will have been showing some of these signs -

- **A bloated hard abdomen**
- **Repeated and failed attempts to vomit or burp**
- **Breathing difficulties - Panting**
- **Anxiousness - Excessive salivation**
- **Drooling - Pale gums - Evidence of pain**
- **Cold body temperature**

From the onset of the above signs **Bloat is a real emergency!**

Early recognition and prompt action

If you notice any of these signs in your own dog, take them to a vet immediately as Bloat/GDV requires urgent life-saving treatment.

It is difficult to pinpoint why Bloat happens, but there are particular risk factors involved.

The dog may have been....

- **Bolting food or gulping air during one large daily meal**
- **Overeating - Drinking lots of water**
- **Highly active after eating**
- **Stressed or excited temperament**

Aim to Prevent Feed smaller and more frequent meals. Speak to us about quantity and types of diet. Avoid heavy and excitable exercise, and limit intake of water before and after food.

Please contact us for further advice on preventing the serious condition of Bloat.

We fully understand that perhaps finances can be the reason for overdue boosters, as these days we are all having to keep a tight rein on our purses. So we are very pleased to offer you our special **Vaccination Amnesty Deal**, which will save you money and get your pet's vaccination cover back on track.

Vaccination Amnesty gives your pet

- An appointment with a vet and a healthcheck
- A full vaccination course consisting of two injections **for the price of a booster**
- Second injection free of charge
- Automatic VIP Membership of the practice
- Discount on a 6 month supply of parasite treatments. Remember flea, worms and ticks require a host to complete their lifecycle, so your pets are the perfect target! Maintaining regular parasite treatments, helps keep your pet healthy and happy.

So if your pet's booster is way overdue, contact us today, and take advantage of our **Vaccination Amnesty Deal**.



Summer 2015



Weimaraner



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

Meet Our Traineesall soon to qualify!

Shell, Charlotte and Leigh are part of our nursing team and are all about to qualify as Vet Care Assistants, and will then begin their Vet Nurse training.

Hello Charlotte, what are your hobbies and do you have any pets? I am a keen horse rider and compete in show jumping. My dog is called Ollie, a Westie/Jack Russell cross.

What's your favourite part of working with animals? It's the caring for them when they are so poorly. I am also interested in surgical nursing, physiotherapy and am keen to become an equine nurse in the future, as I enjoy working with large animals.

When did you join Hillpark and from where are you soon to qualify as a VCA? I joined the team here early 2014 and have been attending Writtle College for my VCA. I will be continuing with my studies towards becoming a Veterinary Nurse.

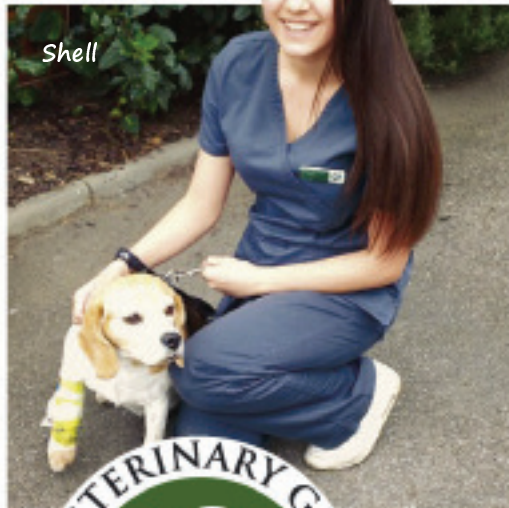


Charlotte

So Shell, what inspired you to work in the veterinary world? Well I've always wanted to work with animals, and the love for my own pets, especially my Golden Retriever, made me want to embark on a career with animals.

Where are you currently studying? I'm at Writtle College and qualifying this summer. My future goal is to then study to qualify as a Veterinary Nurse.

Are there particular interests you have in the care of animals? Yes, hyperthyroidism is a subject where I would like to further my knowledge as I find it very interesting. My favourite part though is meeting different clients and their pets, and of course seeing patients return home fully recovered.



Shell



Leigh

Leigh, what are your particular interests in animal care? Domestic animals are high on my list of interests, especially dogs, but I am keen to work with a variety of species to expand my knowledge.

How long have you been working at Hillpark and what are your future goals? Over a year and half now. I started as part of my work experience that was required while I was taking my Animal Management Course. I want to qualify as a Veterinary Nurse so I can help clients and animals in the best way.

Why did you choose a career working with animals? From a young age I always wanted to care for animals. I enjoy helping them to recover from illness and operations and seeing a positive change to their health.

TIGER-STARGAZER EASTER-RUBRUM

Lilies are indeed beautiful, but all you felines out there need to steer well clear of these flowers, as they are highly poisonous to cats!



All types and every part of this flower are a danger; the stem, leaves, flowers and stamens can be bitten and chewed, while fallen pollen is licked off coats and paws. Cats are inquisitive creatures, especially the young, and just ingesting a small amount of this plant can cause

vomiting - breathing difficulties

lethargy - depression

loss of appetite

If you recognise any of these signs or even suspect that your cat has been in contact with or eaten any part of a lily, **please contact a vet immediately.**

Lily poisoning can cause acute kidney failure, and sadly in some cases is fatal. The sooner treatment can begin the better. **Play it safe and avoid having lilies in your house or garden.**

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



find us on



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