

# Say Cheese!



Summer 2016

Do you enjoy capturing on camera those funny and sweet antics of your four-legged friend? Judging by the number of pictures and videos online, we reckon the answer is...yes!

Your cat or dog may not give a 'say cheese' grin at the camera, but they do have a great set of teeth, which actually require the same essential care just like ours!

**Tooth Truths** Within a few weeks of birth, the 'baby' teeth appear. Between 4 and 6 months these loosen and fall out, to be replaced by an 'adult' set, which are designed to last a lifetime. However, almost 80% of dogs and 70% of cats show signs of periodontal disease at just 3 years old!

**This is what happens** A soft sticky substance called plaque, comprised of food debris and bacteria, sticks to teeth. If not brushed away, it gradually builds up to a hard scale called tartar, which can cause inflamed and infected gums, resulting in tooth decay. Bone loss may occur, and your pet could actually lose teeth. In severe cases, infections can spread via the bloodstream to affect other internal organs like the liver, kidney and heart.

**Tooth Troubles**  
bad breath drooling  
inflamed, red or bleeding gums  
yellow/brown or loose teeth  
difficulty or not eating  
sensitive/pawing at mouth

**Notice any of these signs?**  
Then it's time your pet had a dental check with the vet.

## Toothbrush Training Tips

It is very important to keep your pet's teeth in good condition. Ideally brushing should begin when they are young, but please be patient, especially if you have an older pet. Don't rush, build confidence and give your pet praise and cuddles!

-  Just with your finger, lightly touch in and around their mouth, softly rubbing the front teeth only.
-  Once your pet is confident with this, cover your finger with a soft damp cloth to gently rub the teeth.
-  Introduce a soft bristle toothbrush with something tasty on the bristles. Allow your pet to lick and investigate the brush while you are holding it.
-  When the brush becomes familiar, lightly brush their front teeth.
-  Gradually progress to using animal toothpaste, introducing a gentle vertical motion to the front teeth and a circular action for the back.



**Some pets enjoy having their teeth cleaned**, but others..... well it may take a while! Treat toothbrush time as a fun and happy event for your pet.

*We are here to help! If it all seems a bit daunting, our nurses can show you how to brush your pet's teeth. It's never too late to learn!*



## 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

## Hop Along to Hillpark!

Would you like a **FREE** healthcheck for your pet bunny?

**Yes it's Rabbit Awareness Week, 18th-26th June 2016**, and to celebrate here at Hillpark, we are holding a **Special Rabbit Month for the whole of JUNE!**

Enjoy a discount on vaccinations and parasite control plus advice on general healthcare, neutering, diet and housing, all of which contribute to keeping your bobtailed friend healthy and happy!

*Call us now, to book your bunny in during JUNE, and help spread the word to other 'hopping' mad people!*



# Welcome to the World Little One!



Congratulations go to vet Nicole who gave birth to a beautiful baby boy on 1st May 2016!

Emrys recently made his first visit to us all with Nicole and of course, as all babies do, needed feeding. For Nicole, we could see that new motherhood was pretty tiring, as she fell asleep whilst feeding him! *Ssshhh.....zzzzzz!*



## Summer Fun

*Enjoy summer, but please do take a few simple precautions. Pets can suffer from heatstroke or dehydration very quickly, and sadly this can be fatal.*

Regulate your pet's time spent in the sun.

Ensure animals have access to shady areas.

Exercise dogs in the cooler morning or evening air.

**NEVER leave your pet in the car, or in conservatories at home.** Both reach oven-like temperatures!

Provide plenty of fresh, clean drinking water.

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## Friendly Pets!

If you are looking to have a small pet, guinea pigs are lovely 'daytime' active animals, and very responsive to your attentions. These amazing little creatures are one of the oldest domestic animals dating back to 1000-500BC.

### Guinea Pig Guide

- The average lifespan is 4-8 years.
- Guinea pigs like companions - a neutered pair or small group of the same sex.
- A good-sized hutch with plenty of dust free bedding, and an outside run with tunnels and boxes, as they are flight animals that like to hide!
- Provide protection from the sun, as guinea pigs can suffer sun/heatstroke.
- Ensure they are warm, dry and snug during winter.
- A varied diet is essential - grass, dandelions, carrots, cabbage, spinach, apple and pear. They require a source of vitamin C in their diet. This is found in grass, and also in good quality dried pellet food specifically for guinea pigs. Both are great for their teeth too.
- Give a regular supply of hay and clean fresh water.
- **Warning!** Always identify any plants before feeding your pet, as some may cause illness and sadly could be fatal. If in doubt.....don't let them eat it! Place outside runs away from potentially hazardous plants.

### Healthy Guinea Pigs

Like all pets, they need regular check-ups with a vet. A guinea pig's teeth and nails grow continuously, so may require clipping. Mites and fungal infections are sometimes a problem, so we can examine their coat and skin too, at their appointment.

*If this sounds the right pet for you, there are guinea pigs waiting in rescue centres for their forever homes. For further information on caring for a guinea pig, please contact us.*



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