

Covid-19

Hello to all our clients and their pets in these unusual times. Despite the current situation, we would like to reassure you that we are here for you both during Covid-19, but with a few changes and those are happening all the time! **So do keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for up to date information.** If you are still unsure you can email or call us, but please be patient as we only have one vet and two nurses at each practice. Over half our staff are furloughed to keep them and their families safe.

Hill Park is one of the last small and independent practices within the M25. We are a family styled, traditional and personal practice. We are not part of a large corporate with shareholders, but owned by one vet, Mike Malone, who is focused during Covid-19 to provide an excellent, caring and safe service for you, your pets and his staff.

Veterinary Consultations To protect our community, Veterinary Surgeons and Nurses, we have decided not to take chances, and with the same two very small teams will continue to provide **emergency and urgent care only service. This includes vaccinations for the vulnerable only** (puppies, kittens, rabbits and 1st year boosters). All of our consult fees remain the same price, even though we are doing one consult every half hour instead of 15 minutes, to hopefully keep you apart in the car park. No emergency fees have been charged.

On your arrival, please call the practice and then wait outside or in your car. The consultation will proceed by telephone and we will collect your animal from you for examination. **Clients are not allowed to enter the clinic.** We want to keep you as safe as possible, so we will be wearing a lot of PPE (that we are getting made by friends to ensure that we don't take any supplies from the NHS), and we ask you not to come too close for your own safety, and please wear a mask while talking to staff if possible.

Medication-Food-Flea and Worm Treatments If your pet needs any of these, you will get them. Please **SEND IN A REQUEST** by our contact form on our website, allowing as much time as possible. You can collect your medications and orders while practising social distancing. We ask that you please pay before collection over the phone to make your visit as swift as possible. No cash accepted.

We look forward to returning to some form of normality in the not too distant future but for now it is important that we all stay safe, well and maintain that social distancing. Thank you to all our clients for your continued support for our lovely little practice.



Vet Mike Malone




Summer
2020

Hot...
Hot....
Hotspot!

Ever found yourself in one of those irritating circles? You try to sort the problem, but it just gets worse and you can't seem to break free! Put yourself in your pet's paws for a while.....imagine...there you are settling down for a little nap, but your leg starts itching again. Earlier in the day it was itching too. So you gave it a nice long nibble and lick when nobody was around. In fact you made quite a sore patch, which you are managing to hide from Mum by lying your head over it. Gosh, it's really irritating now and you just cannot resist having another go.....and after, **the result is a very raw, moist area of skin**, which is still painfully itchy! Worse of all it's making you feel really agitated....so more licking and nibbling is needed and..... we'll stop there. Get the picture?

With all that 'attention', bacteria has now been spread to create a **hotspot**, which if not treated will rapidly increase in size with the continuous lick, lick, licking and nibbling.

Causes Well it could be fleas, a sting, possibly a mite infestation, an allergy or even a minor skin wound. Some cats and dogs will constantly lick and nibble their skin just out of boredom or stress.

If you notice any....

loss of hair
excessive licking
nibbling/scratching
agitated behaviour
red/sore areas of skin

do not delay in calling us for advice. With some prompt treatment and identification of the underlying cause, we can help your pet break free of that irritating circle!



Harold Hill

01708 344455 01708 386046

Monday to Friday 9am - 6.30pm
Saturday 9am - 6.30pm

Elm Park

01708 458424 01708 438039

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

Consultations by Appointment
24 hour 7 day
Emergency Service

www.hillparkvets.co.uk
01708 344455

Be Honest...are YOU a cleaner upper or a leaver?

Summer time, where walks can be enjoyed in the warmer air and lighter evenings, but hopefully all dog owners know that when out with your dog, you should always have plenty of poo bags to hand! It is the owners responsibility to ensure the scooping and safe disposal of your dog's poo. If you are caught failing to clean up in a public place, you could face an on the spot fine or, in court, end up paying a very high price indeed! Thankfully, the majority of dog owners are seen being responsible and disposing of full poo bags in the many special bins that are now provided.

Risky Business Dogs do get various worms and one, the **Roundworm Toxocara Canis**, poses a health risk to humans and may cause liver inflammation and abdominal pain; in more severe cases impaired vision. So it is very important to clean up after your dog has defecated, not only on the daily walks, but also in your own gardens.

Worm Facts

- A female **Toxocara Canis** can lay up to 700 eggs a day.
- These eggs are passed out when a dog poos.
- Eggs can survive in the soil for up to 3 years.
- 2-3 weeks of warm weather, eggs develop to embryo stage containing larvae, and can be infectious to humans.

Let us **ALL be cleaner uppers** and follow these **5 golden rules**

Poop scoop every time your dog poos in a public place or in your garden.

Dispose of the bag and contents responsibly.

NEVER take your dog into a children's play area.

Worm your pets every 3-6 months.

Use an effective prescription wormer.

If you are unsure of how and what wormer to use, just call us and we will advise you.



Achoo! Achoo!

Once a wish twice a kiss so they say, but if you are one of those people who suffers from hay fever or allergies during the summer months, sneezing can be many times in a row and causes great discomfort.

Sneezing: 'to make a sudden involuntary expulsion of air from the nose and mouth due to irritation of the nostrils'.

The odd sneeze here and there from your cat or dog is quite natural, but excessive sneezing can be a sign something is up!

An allergy to food, pollen, dust etc.

Infection possibly due to a dental or fungal problem

Insects or stings ~ A tumour or polyp

A foreign body such as a grass seed - common during summer

We've even heard of paper clips, tinsel, string and a 12cm stick removed from noses!

For our dogs, smell is their primary sense. This highly developed sense helps your pet understand the world they live in, so any nose problems, especially signs of a crusty nose, discharge or blood, do need to be checked out. Please do not delay in giving the surgery a call.

How does your dog smell?

As a dog's nose hits the air it can detect, taste and even remember minute odours, giving past and up to the second neighbourhood news! Your dog will certainly be able to smell that summer barbeque being cooked some distance away! Their nostrils even move independently, so informing which direction the news is coming from.

Dogs have the ability to breathe and smell at the same time. A fold of tissue inside the nose, helps split the airflow as it enters the nostrils, so that all the wonderful odours are diverted down one path for identification in the brain. Scent (olfactory) receptors in a dog range from 125 to 300 million depending on the breed, compared to humans who have only 5 to 6 million.

If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to askoh and if you thought you had a good hiding place for your dog's treats....guess what? Your dog will have already found them!



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