

# Feline Friends

Cats are lovely pets, very affectionate, and during summer our feline friends take great enjoyment basking in the warm sunshine. Some cats like to be around their home and garden all the time, while others are much more independent and will explore the great outdoors. Most cats have their own daily routine to follow, and as pet owners we get used to this routine, but with our busy lifestyles, we may not notice slight changes in our cat's habits, behaviour or general health. Take a look at the chart below, and if you notice any of the signs in your cat, then don't delay in bringing your feline friend in for a check-up, so we can identify the problem and administer any necessary treatment.



  
Summer  
2022

Condition	Signs
<b>Abscesses</b>	Excessive licking of an area Swelling - Redness An open wet wound
<b>Arthritis</b>	Reluctance to jump/exercise Limping/stiffness when walking
<b>Dental</b>	Bad breath - Difficulty eating Drooling - Weight loss
<b>Diabetes</b>	Drinking and urinating more Weight loss - Increased appetite
<b>FLUTD</b> <i>(feline lower urinary tract disease)</i>	Difficulty/pain urinating Urinating in odd places Blood in urine - Behavioural changes
<b>Hyperthyroidism</b>	Increase in appetite and drinking Weight loss - Vomiting
<b>Obesity</b>	Weight gain Reluctance to exercise/jump Less or no self grooming



These are just a few of the conditions we come across. However there are others that may show similar signs, so please do call us for an appointment so we can diagnose exactly what the problem is so as to help your cat regain their health to happily enjoy their daily routine again!

## Warm Weather Worries

### Keep them Cool

We treat **heatstroke** every summer in our practices. Any dog can suffer from it, but **High Risk Dogs** are those that are ● **older** ● **overweight** ● **unwell** ● **all flat-faced breeds** (bulldogs, pugs and french bulldogs known as **brachycephalics**.)

High risk dogs should never be walked in the heat, as **exercise is the most**

#### common trigger for heat-related illness.

Flat-faced dogs can struggle to get enough oxygen into their blood stream, which puts extra strain on their heart, so **heat and exercise can be fatal.**

#### Symptoms of heatstroke in dogs

- **panting heavily** ● **drooling excessively**
- **appears lethargic** ● **drowsy or uncoordinated**
- **vomiting** ● **collapsing** ● **diarrhoea**



#### Start these steps to cool your dog Immediately

- move your dog to a shaded area.
- place the dog in the breeze of a fan or in an air conditioned room.
- pour room-temperature water on your dog.
- Lay them on a cold wet towel.
- allow them to drink room-temperature water.
- **Call the vet!**



### 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  
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[www.hillparkvets.co.uk](http://www.hillparkvets.co.uk)  
01708 344455

# Summer Stingers!



If your pet's paw suddenly becomes swollen, you might find that your dog or cat has been stung! During the warmer weather, wasp and bee stings can happen more often as there are plenty of our buzzing friends occupying the air space and busying around gardens. For our curious pets, the buzzing and quick movement is just too much to resist a good old snap, paw and chase at these insects, resulting sometimes in a nasty sting! Should you suddenly hear your pet yelp, yowl or start whining, licking or nibbling at their leg or paw and holding it up, or shaking their head excessively, these could be signs of a sting!

Please be watchful of any swellings, but particularly around the face and mouth, as this **could restrict breathing**. Some animals, just like people, are allergic to stings, so contact us immediately if your pet....

- has any kind of mouth/face swelling ● is drooling
- has difficulty breathing ● collapses

Insect stings can be very unpleasant, painful and may cause difficulties, but please remember these insects are part of our ecosystem, and play an important role in pollination. As with all living creatures, treat them with respect even though they might sting!

Hopping along to another problem during the warmer months -

## Flystrike

When a rabbit's hindquarters become wet, dirty and sore, flies are attracted to this area, where they can lay eggs. The hatching maggots will then literally feed on the rabbit's skin and underlying tissue. **Flystrike is a very serious and painful condition**, which requires immediate veterinary treatment, as sadly it can often be fatal.



**Flystrike is a real emergency, so please do contact us quickly!**

### Help to protect your rabbit

- At least once a day fully inspect their hindquarters to ensure they are clean, dry, egg and maggot free.
- Clean hutches frequently.
- Remove soiled bedding and waste material daily.

If your rabbit appears to have a regular rear end soiling problem, bring bunny along for a check-up. Overgrown teeth and claws or obesity may be preventing your rabbit from grooming properly. We can also advise on the protective sprays, which are available.



## Don't Get Caught Out!

With the lifting of restrictions, it's been great to book holidays for a very welcome break! If your cat or dog are going to a cattery or boarding kennels while you are away, please do remember to check that your pet's **vaccinations are up to date**, and what the requirements are for your cat

or dog prior to admission. If you would like advice about vaccinations in general that help protect your pet against infectious diseases, or to book a vaccination appointment, please call our friendly team.



1 Lindfield Road **Harold Hill** RM3 9BJ



01708 344455  
01708 386046



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



01708 458424  
01708 438039