

Look into their Eyes



They say the eyes can tell all, and we know only too well how our pets can express emotions with their eyes, showing us happiness at walk time, or that 'please give me a biscuit' look.

Depending on the species, the shape and position of the eyes vary to allow different fields of vision. For example, cats being night prowlers have slit shaped pupils that dilate very wide in dimly lit or dark surroundings, so allowing better vision. Their eyes are eight times more efficient than humans.

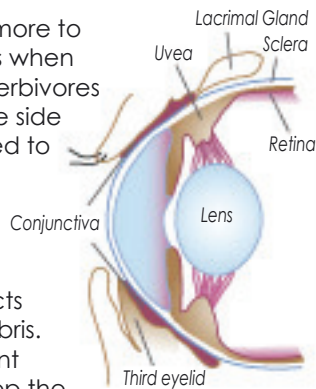
Carnivores (meat eaters) eyes are placed more to the front for a clear view to judge distances when hunting and positioning prey in the wild. Herbivores (vegetation eaters) eyes are situated on the side of the head and tend to bulge, as they need to see a wide area to escape any predators.

Eyes are sensitive complex organs, and consist of three main layers.

1. Sclera 2. Uvea 3. Retina

The Third Eyelid provides protection, and acts like a windscreen wiper sweeping away debris.

The Lacrimal (Tear) Gland plays an important function producing natural tears, which keep the cornea moist, cleanse the eye and help to remove any dirt.



Dry-eye Keratoconjunctivitis sicca (KCS) is a condition that occurs when the tear glands are damaged by the immune system, and then produce little or no tears. Unfortunately this is a permanent condition, and causes great discomfort, as the eyes become very dry. If left untreated it can lead to loss of sight, but treatment is available to help preserve vision, and ease the problem.

So look into your pets' eyes.

Does your cat or dog appear to be **blinking excessively, frequently rubbing or keeping their eyes closed?** Do their eyes **look red, dry, inflamed or have a discharge?**

If you notice any of these signs now or in the future, please book your pet in for an eye check, as we can perform a quick and simple test to measure the amount of tear production. If we do diagnose **Dry-eye**, we can discuss treatment with you and organise regular eye checks to monitor the condition.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.



Winter 2013

Lost!



I have been urged by our vets to report on the huge number of missing and stray cats. Surgery records are full of details from owners whose cats have gone missing, along with ill or injured cats found on our streets, sadly with no identification. Felines, are fairly independent creatures,

and although we do enjoy our cosy beds and food, we like to explore the outside world, checking our territory and when we dare, that of other cats too! Unneutered cats ...well they are always on the search for love and go wandering afar! Unfortunately these outdoor activities can result in felines male and female, getting into trouble. Finding an open garage or shed door during the rounds, and some just cannot resist investigating inside, or having a quick snooze out of the rain. Cats can become accidentally shut in for days and are found in a poorly state, having been without food and water. Straying to an unfamiliar area in search of a mate, may result in being far from home. Just crossing the road is risky business, and unfortunately some cats do end up in emergency casualty. Wouldn't it be great if all their worried owners could be contacted easily and quickly? The big message from one feline to another... **ensure you are microchipped!** It's a quick, simple, permanent means of identification. If you do get lost and are taken into a vets or rescue centre, they will scan for a microchip, and you are then a phone call away from being reunited with your owner. Unmicrochipped cats? ...if lucky, are kindly rehomed by new owners, while others can sadly sit for months in a rescue centre pen, hoping that one day their owners may find them. So take a trip to your vet and get microchipped! This is Carrie Cat reporting from Hillpark Vets Radio.



Carrie Cat Reporter extraordinaire



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
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www.hillparkvets.co.uk

01708 344455

Achoo... cough splutter!

So what do you associate with the cold winter months? Scraping ice of the windscreen, cosy jumpers, log fires or the dreaded colds, even worse... the flu! That awful binged up feeling where you cannot breathe properly, and have to deal with an uncontrollable cough and high fever. Your cats can also catch a type of flu - but for them this is not just a winter problem, as 'cat flu' is an infection that unvaccinated felines are at risk from all the time. An infected cat can shed particles of the virus into the environment via discharge from the eyes, nose and in their saliva.



There are two types of cat flu

Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis causes sneezing, coughing and fever, along with nasal and eye discharge. Permanent damage can occur to the delicate lining of the nose.

Feline Calicivirus where signs are less severe, but cats often develop painful mouth ulcers, and can suffer from lifelong recurring gingivitis.

Infected cats may have difficulty eating and drinking, due to a blocked nose, sore throat or mouth ulcers, which can lead to dehydration.

After infection, cats can remain carriers of the virus, and although show no symptoms, are a potential risk to others.

Please call us for advice if you think your cat is

- sneezing more than usual
- has a runny nose
- sore eyes or discharge
- generally unwell

Vaccination is available against cat flu, and also **Feline Infectious Enteritis**, which causes fever, sickness and severe diarrhoea, and

Feline Leukaemia Virus, which is spread via close contact with infected cats through grooming, sharing food bowls and fighting. It can be months before clinical signs appear and the immune system is seriously affected.

Lapsed vaccinations can be restarted, so speak to a member of our staff for advice.

Big Congratulations



from us all here at Hillpark, to Jenny and Luke who have passed their Veterinary Nursing exams this summer.

It takes many hours of study and production of a completed

portfolio, plus lots of hard work within the practice to achieve the status of Fully Qualified Veterinary Nurse.

So 'well done' to both! Thanks go to Jane who was their clinical coach, guiding and teaching them through their journey to reach their goals.

Weighting for Christmas?!



Love it or hate it Christmas is coming, and with it plenty of indulgence in the food department.

Well it is only once a year, and the guilt is softened with the promise of diets, detox and exercise in the New Year.

Here at the practice, we enjoy a big turkey dinner and a second slice of chocolate log, just as much as the next person, but it's not just our expanding waistline we must watch - it is our pet's too.

Try not to give in to those pleading eyes

You can still give your pet plenty of treats like extra cuddles, trips to the park and play games with your feline friend! If your pet does need to shed a few pounds, visit our Free Nurse Clinic, where we can discuss a diet and exercise plan, plus provide you with plenty of support and encouragement. Just call reception for further information.

✗ Overfeeding, an incorrect diet, titbits from all the family, extra treats and lack of daily exercise, all contribute to pets being overweight.

✗ Obesity in dogs and cats can cause diabetes, arthritis, heart disease and breathing difficulties.

✓ Watch how much and exactly what you are feeding them, and keep treats to a minimum. Exercise daily, enjoy activity or games, and involve the whole family in keeping your pet healthy. You can pop into the surgery and weigh your pet regularly - no appointment is required.

✓ A well-balanced healthy diet with suitable exercise, will help keep your pet fit, maintain an ideal weight and enjoy a better quality of life.



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

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



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01708 458424
01708 438039

01708 344455
01708 386046