

Leigh's Fundraiser



MISSION RABIES

Two of our Harold Hill Nurses **Leigh** and **Lottie** are going to Ghana in February with Mission Rabies to help this cause! They are volunteering for the project to help reduce the spread of rabies and educate the community.

Vaccinating our pets against infectious and fatal diseases not only protects them, but also helps to keep disease at a low level in the animal community. Here in the UK, we are lucky enough to have been Rabies free since the 20th century. However, other continents including Africa and Asia are still prime areas, with many fatalities. So before travelling abroad, it is important to have your pet fully vaccinated.

What is Rabies? It is a fatal and contagious viral disease. All mammals can contract rabies.... including humans! It is transferred through the saliva of an infected animal, e.g. via a bite or scratch or even licking onto a wound. It attacks the central nervous system (the brain and nerves), and once symptoms appear, rabies is nearly always fatal.



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

Winter
2019/20



Pyometra

Making you aware of as many conditions as possible that could affect your pets' health, may help you recognise a problem in its early stage. Obtaining advice or any necessary treatment contributes greatly towards helping your pet recover, and remain healthy to enjoy a happy life with you. Some conditions are fairly minor and need little treatment, while others are of a more serious nature that require immediate veterinary care, like **Pyometra**. This condition can occur in those female pets that have not yet been neutered.

A simple description of pyometra is an infection of the uterus (womb), however it is a complicated and serious problem that does require urgent treatment.

What is Pyometra? The womb fills with infected pus like material. This can be due to various problems such as cysts, a build up of mucus and bacteria inside the uterus, an infection or a hormonal imbalance. Toxins from the pus inside the womb are released, and enter the blood stream making your pet very ill.

Symptoms of Pyometra.

If your pet shows any of these signs contact your vet without delay.

Vaginal Discharge **Loss of Appetite**

Excessive Drinking **Lethargy and Depression**

Vomiting **Swelling of the Abdomen**

The sooner treatment can begin the better.

Treatment If pyometra is suspected, we may take blood tests, x-rays or ultrasound scans to assist us in diagnosing the condition. Once confirmed, treatment can begin, but sometimes a pet is so poorly that an immediate hysterectomy operation is required.

Neutering your Pet If you are not planning to allow your pet to have puppies or kittens, then perhaps you should consider having them neutered. Not only will this prevent pyometra but also other related conditions such as ovarian cysts, mammary tumours, cancer and of course unwanted pregnancies.

If your pet has not been neutered, we would be happy to fully discuss any concerns you may have, so please do contact us at the surgery.



Thank you for your
help and.....
LET'S BEAT RABIES!



Hello Golden Oldies

Suddenly that little cuddly puppy or kitten that was once causing mayhem and puddles in your household, is now all grown up! As they age, this will affect the way in which their bodies function. Subtle changes can occur in their physical condition; some you may notice, others you may not. To help our well-respected senior citizens of the animal world, Hillpark are offering a nose to tail check up for all older cats from 8 years old and dogs from 7 years for **half the regular consultation fee. For just £17.75 from November 2019 to February 2020**, your much-loved pet can receive **a full examination** from one of our highly experienced vets. For more information on our Golden Oldie offer, please speak with our friendly nurses.



Christmas Chat

Last Orders Please!

December is such a busy time of year for most people.

If it's **your pet's long-term medication or food**, then it could cause a real problem for you at a time when the surgery might be closed. So do contact us well in advance of Christmas with your pet's food or medication order, and then you can tick that job off your list, **but do remember to collect it!**

Weighting for Christmas?

The festive season brings plenty of indulgence in the food department and here at the surgery, we enjoy a big dinner and a second slice of chocolate log just as much as the next person! Christmas also usually means **extra treats and food** for our pets too, but do go easy as obesity in dogs and cats can cause diabetes, heart disease, arthritis and breathing difficulties.



Winter Wonderland The colder season is fast approaching, so please remember our beautiful birds and other wildlife that brace the winter elements. They all need some extra help to survive, so feed birds daily during harsh weather. For our prickly hedgehog friends, please do not feed milk as hedgehogs are lactose intolerant. Provide mealworms and special hedgehog food; tinned meat cat food is also suitable. Ensure a good supply of fresh drinking water too for our wildlife.



Ho Ho Ho and A Kiss Under The Mistletoe!

Ancient Druids and Norse Mythology tell stories of this seasonal plant, but the truth is that fresh or dried mistletoe and berries contain substances that are **toxic for your pet**. Poinsettias and holly/berries can also cause problems. If any are ingested, this can cause a range of **signs such as skin, mouth and throat irritation, swelling, excessive drooling, vomiting, lip licking and diarrhoea**.

Do not delay in contacting your vet for advice.



find us on
facebook

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



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Ringworm.....

Another Wriggly Worm?

Some pet owners hear the word worms, and it can send a shudder down their spine! Wriggly intestinal worms are a parasite problem that can arise in your pets, which needs to be dealt with quickly, better still prevented. However, let us not get confused here as **ringworm** is not a worm.

Ringworm on your pet is **a type of fungus**, which infects the skin of cats, dogs and even us humans.

How is ringworm transmitted?

From direct contact with an infected animal, which can also shed fungi spores that are able to survive for long periods of time in the environment. Your pet could catch ringworm from anywhere that another infected animal has been.

What you should look out for

A small round bald patch, which may have scaly skin in the middle or small spots.

Sometimes this causes irritation for your pet, so watch out for scratching/nibbling.

Don't Panic! Ringworm is fairly easy to diagnose and treat. We can use a special light, which shows the fungus as a glowing fluorescent colour. We may take a hair sample from around the infected area to study under a microscope, or a little of the scaly skin to enable us to grow a culture. It is a good idea to regularly check your pet's skin and coat, and if you find something that you would like us to check out, please contact us.