

# Caring for our **Feline Friends**



Cats adore the fuss and pampering we humans give them. They deal with life in their own time and are very vocal, communicating by meowing,

purring, body language, growling, trilling, hissing and with pheromones. It is thought that cats evolved 12 million years ago, and can be seen in Egyptian paintings and sculptures from 3,000 BC.

## Common Cat Ailments

**Hairballs** Swallowed hair from grooming usually passes through their digestive system and out the other end. However, a hairball can develop in the stomach or small intestine. Cats may gag or retch in an attempt to remove it.

Other signs - loss of appetite, constipation, and sometimes a swollen abdomen.

**Worms** Round and tapeworms are the two most common types found in the intestine. Mice, rats and birds carry worms too, so cats might catch a little more than bargained for! **Fleas** - a year round problem, and a source of irritation, sore skin and allergic reactions. Severe infestations may lead to anaemia, especially in young pets.

**Ticks** are blood-sucking parasites, and once attached, become engorged with blood, cause irritation, skin problems and can transmit Lyme disease. Regular and effective treatments are essential to control all these parasites.

**Spraying/Marking** As territorial creatures, cats spray outdoors to tell other felines 'this ground is claimed!' Unacceptable spraying inside the home can mean anxiety about a change in their environment, like moving house or the arrival of a new cat neighbour. With a little detective work, the underlying cause can generally be found, and we will advise you on how to help rebuild their confidence.

## Neutering

At about six months, male and female cats can reproduce and often! Toms fight with other cats, suffer wounds and are at risk of fatal disease, via bites and scratches. The queen, delivers a litter of 3-4 kittens or more, and then is shortly off to get pregnant again! We can neuter your cat from 4 months onwards. It will provide health and social advantages, as it helps to reduce fighting, aggression, spraying, unwanted litters of kittens and the spread of fatal disease.

**Mouth** With healthcare maintenance or giving pills, cats can be fiery creatures, causing us to be a little wary, but regular mouth checks are necessary as some are prone to oral disease. Watch out for inflamed swollen gums (gingivitis), ulcers or cuts on tongues, excessive drooling, bleeding gums, bad breath or a reluctance to eat.

**FLUTD** Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease covers a wide range of conditions affecting their bladder and urethra like bladder stones, urinary crystals, stress, or infection. Signs include urinating frequently (possibly in unusual places), blood in urine, squatting to urinate but cannot.

**Vaccinations & Boosters** Ensure your cat is protected as they wander freely outdoors and can meet unvaccinated, feral or stray cats carrying infectious disease. Kittens can be vaccinated at nine weeks, and lapsed vaccinations can generally be restarted.

**We have plenty of advice, help and treatments to tackle the ailments above. If you notice any signs of ill health in your cat or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.**



Spring 2012

**25% off neutering**  
See over for details



## Pack your case pets!....

### New Relaxed Passport Rules

With spring just around the corner, you may be starting to plan holidays abroad and taking your pet with you on a return trip, has now happily become much easier. On the 1st January 2012, new regulations were introduced, which have drastically shortened waiting periods after rabies vaccination, eliminated the blood test and revised parasite treatments.

To gain successful re-entry to the UK from EU and listed non-EU countries, **the new regulations need to be completed in this order.**

1. Microchip your pet.
2. Vaccinate against rabies and **wait 21 days** after vaccination is completed.
3. Obtain the documented EU pet passport.
4. Parasite control - **before returning** to the UK, **all pet dogs** must be treated for **tapeworm** by a vet not less than 24 hours and not more than 120 hours (1-5 days) before its scheduled arrival time to the UK.
5. Return to the UK via an approved transport company on an authorised route.

**Keep it Valid** Once the passport has been issued, ensure that rabies boosters are kept up to date, as lapsed vaccinations will mean a repeat of step 2.

**Remember** - Pets travelling abroad may be at risk from another country's diseases and parasites. We can advise and suggest suitable protection that is available, so be prepared before embarking on your travels.

You can also visit [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk) where you will find full details on the new regulations, and the specific requirements from **unlisted non-EU countries.**

**If you have any queries, we are happy to help.**

**ABBHEY hours**

Shrewsbury

01743 232713

Monday to Friday

8.30am - 7pm

Saturday 8.30am - 12noon

Shawbury

01939 250655

Monday to Friday

(excluding Wednesday)

9am - 12.30pm

1.30pm - 6pm

Wednesday & Saturday Closed

Consultations by appointment

**24hour 7day**

**Emergency Service**



# BAD HAIR DAY!



## Tub Time Tips

- Brush coats first ● Give plenty of praise and happy reassurance
- Place an old towel or mat in the bath to ensure no slipping
- Use warm water and animal shampoo ● Avoid soap and water in eyes, ears and mouth
- Always rinse well, residue can be an irritant
- Be prepared to get wet, dogs love a good shake during and after a bath!
- Ensure your pet is thoroughly dry, especially those with long and thick coats

**Happy Times** Grooming is part of your pet's routine care, and should be an enjoyment not feared by them. It also helps build your relationship, and scientific evidence shows that it even relieves stress and lowers blood pressure - for both of you!

Never scold your pet, give praise, be cheerful, and avoid tugging at the hair, as it will hurt!

**Like advice on coat care?** Please call our surgery where our friendly staff will be happy to assist you on the type of grooming and frequency of bathing to suit your pet's breed.

Whatever type of hair you have, it needs brushing, washing and cutting, to keep it in good condition. Every breed of dog also needs their coat 'grooming' too, whether by its owner or a professional groomer. Brushing helps to remove dead skin, loose hair and distributes the protective natural oils, all of which assist in keeping their coat and skin healthy. Some dogs require daily grooming, while for others a thorough brush just twice a week is sufficient. Regular care also provides the opportunity to spot any health problems in their early stages such as fleas, ticks, lice, lumps or swellings, skin conditions, hotspots, cuts, and infections.

**Fur Coat** Hair growth follows lines, which are called 'hair streams'. These run from the head, down the back, body and legs to the feet. There are factors that affect how this hair grows like the environmental temperature, the time of year, health problems or a diet lacking in nutrition.

**Splish Splash!** When it comes to bath time, a dog would probably prefer to keep their dirt and smelly fragrance, but if they have just waded through a large muddy puddle or happily rolled in something unpleasant, then it is time to head for the tub!



## March and April Offer

25% off  
Neutering  
Dogs, Cats & Rabbits

Phone or ask at reception for details

## Healthy Pet Club *even more!* cutting the cost of veterinary care

Joining our HPC is an excellent way to budget for your pets' routine healthcare, and at a time when we all need a little extra help with the purse strings, we are happy to report that we have reduced the cost of our plan. In addition, members will benefit from excellent discounts on medication, food products and services. Your pet is welcome to join at any age, with no health check and no minimum sign-up period required. **Healthy Pet Club** not only spreads the cost of routine treatments, but also ensures that important preventative healthcare is maintained at regular intervals.

**Membership includes and saves you up to 43% on the following**

- Booster Vaccinations - Kennel Cough (dog only)
- 6 Monthly Health Check
- 12 Months Flea and Wormer Treatments
- Discounted Food - 10% discount on all products and services
- 20% off selected medications Multi Pet Discount.

**One simple monthly payment covers membership**

**Cats £9.99**

**Dogs** small 10kg **£9.99** medium 10 - 25kg **£10.99**  
large 25.1 - 40kg **£11.99** giant 40.1kg plus **£14.99**

**For more information or to join, please speak to our staff at the reception desk.**



## Bunny's Worries

*If you have homed or are thinking of owning a bunny  
There is a serious side to this that is not at all funny  
To be a responsible pet owner you must take heed  
Of the correct and proper care that we do really need*

*For us to be happy and live a good healthy long life  
You must provide attentive care and no mean strife  
As for some the novelty of us starts to decline  
And for any kept pet this is a big danger sign*

*We are living creatures and need good care not bad  
Otherwise our rabbit lives become forever so sad  
As we sit ignored in the corner of a cold lonely hutch  
With no means of escape or feeling a friendly touch*

*In the wild we have company as we live in big bunches  
Playing and grazing in delicious grass for our lunches  
As pets we still need fresh air company the right food  
All these things plus more will keep us in a happy mood*

*So if you do feel that some of us cute gentle rabbits  
Will fit well and enjoyably into your own daily habits  
That you'll always protect and give us attention daily  
And provide a large safe run for us to play in so gaily*

*Vaccinate us regularly against nasty infectious diseases  
And take us to the vet if we get ill with the sneezes  
Then 'yes please' we shout do give us a happy nice home  
With this love and great care we'll never feel sad or alone*



Your Pets Our Priority

16 Holywell St, Abbey Foregate  
Shrewsbury SY2 5DB  
01743 232713

High Ridge, Wem Rd  
Shawbury SY4 4NW  
01939 250655

[www.abbeyvetsshrewsbury.co.uk](http://www.abbeyvetsshrewsbury.co.uk)