

BACK to BASICS

At Abbey Veterinary Centre, no two days are ever the same, as animal care can involve anything from cut pads that require stitching, to the more serious cases of road traffic accidents. No matter how much we try to ensure our pet's safety, at

times these unfortunate incidents just do happen. However, their all-important routine healthcare is within all pet owners control, and is available here at our practice.

Whether you are an experienced owner or have just acquired your first pet, it is beneficial to be aware of developments in the animal world, and what is required to help your pets stay healthy and happy. New parasites appear like **Lungworm**, and the recent increase in cases of **Parvovirus**, show us we must never become complacent.

Maintaining effective basic preventative care for your pets, provides a solid foundation for their overall health. A suitable diet, weight control, regular exercise, dental care, healthchecks, vaccinations, flea and worming treatments, all play a major part in the general well-being of your pets.

Vaccination Protection against Infection

If we want to help our pets remain healthy, protect them and keep infectious diseases at a low level in the animal community, then a primary vaccination course and boosters are important. Diseases are spread via direct contact with or where an infected animal has been. They can also be carried on paws, clothing and our shoes, while other viruses survive in the environment for long periods of time.

Dogs are social animals that enjoy walks, playing with other canine friends, and having a good sniff around. **Distemper, Leptospirosis and Parvovirus**, are just a few of the many diseases your dogs are at risk from.

Cats are quite independent creatures that roam freely in the outside world, and could come into contact with unvaccinated cats. **Feline Leukaemia Virus** for example, is spread via the saliva from sharing food bowls, mutual grooming and fighting.

Protect your **rabbit** against **Myxomatosis** a particularly unpleasant and often fatal disease, spread by fleas from wild bunnies to your pet.

It causes nasty swellings around the face, ears, eyes and mouth affecting their ability to eat, drink or see.



When to Vaccinate A primary course can begin at **8 weeks for puppies - 9 weeks for kittens over 6 weeks for rabbits**

If you have acquired a new adult dog, cat or rabbit, or feel your pet's boosters have lapsed, please contact us for advice. Vaccinations and boosters are quick to administer. So check your pets' vaccination record, to ensure they have an 'up-to-date stamp' in their booklet.

A New Benji! Weight May 2011 39.4kg - Target Weight September 2012 29.4kg

We saw Benji a Labrador cross, earlier this year when he came along to Abbey for his annual vaccination. During his health check, the vet found that Benji had rather a wobbly tooth and needed his teeth cleaning, which would involve a general anaesthetic. Benji though, was rather overweight and was at a higher risk for this procedure to go ahead. So he was referred to my weight management clinic, to discuss his diet and lifestyle with his

owner, who related that Benji showed lack of energy, would get out of breath and on walks would stop to lie down and rest. A plan was put into action to help him lose those unhealthy extra pounds. It was difficult at first, as Benji's Mum was used to spoiling him with lots of treats, but understood that it was not the kindest act, as he continued to gain weight. She really wanted to help him, and trusted our advice to start Benji on the weight loss programme. As his weight began to decrease, her belief in the plan grew as she saw Benji become a much happier and energetic dog with many more reasons to get up and go!

By August 2012, he had lost 4kg and was given the 'go ahead' by the vet to undergo a general anaesthetic, for the dental work. We have built a great relationship with Benji and his Mum during the weigh-ins, and she wholly recommends the Hills Prescription RD diet to other pet owners

who wish for their pet to lose weight,and Benji? Well he just loves coming to the practice, treating it like his second home and jumping on the scales without even being asked to! There has been no looking back since starting the diet, and Benji is now a

much happier and healthier dog!



Tracie Howells RVN
Abbey Veterinary
Centre
Shawbury
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Congratulations and Well Done from us all, to Frankie on the safe arrival of William. Both Mum and baby are doing really well.



Healthy Pet Club

Cutting the cost of veterinary care

Would you like to save money?

Join our special club and spread the cost of your pets' routine preventative healthcare. Pets are welcome to join at any age, with no health check or minimum sign up period. Once a member they also benefit from excellent discounts on medication, food, products and services.

One simple monthly payment covers membership and includes **lifetime** preventative care.

Now from just £9.99 per month and includes

FREE Microchipping and Nail Clipping

For more details on how your cat, dog or rabbit can become members, please ask at reception.

Remember
fireworks can frighten pets

Please keep them
safe indoors.



MERRY

Chocolate contains theobromine, which is poisonous to dogs and cats.

Help our feathered friends in winter and top up the wild bird table.

Roast Turkey yum!... but sharp carcass bones can lodge in the throat and stomach.

If your pet falls ill when the surgery is closed, call our emergency service.

Supervise all pets near your log burner, fireplace or heater.

Treats of course, but not too many they can cause tummy upsets and weight gain!

Mince pies contain raisins, which can be toxic to dogs if eaten - grapes too.

Antifreeze tastes sweet to pets, but is potentially fatal if swallowed; clear away spills!

Small pets living outside require daily care, warm bedding & unfrozen water.



Why should you neuter your pet?

Stop hormonally influenced aggression towards other animals. **Drastically reduce the risk of reproductive cancers** of the testicles, mammary glands, uterus or ovaries.

Prevent or reduce undesirable behaviour like urine marking or spraying, mounting of furniture or even family members, calling and soiling during seasons.

Significantly reduce the risk of false pregnancies and prostate enlargement or inflammation.

Prevent unwanted pregnancies

Stops pets roaming, which reduces the risk of fighting or road traffic accidents.

Prevent Pyometra (infection of the uterus) and other potentially fatal conditions.

Eliminate sexual frustration and focus attention on their human family.

HPC members get 5% extra off during the campaign = 30%



Now until the end of 2012

25% off
Neutering
Dogs, Cats & Rabbits
Phone or ask at reception for details



ABBEY hours

Shrewsbury

Monday to Friday

8.30am - 7pm

Saturday 8.30am - 12noon

Shawbury

Monday to Friday
(excluding Wednesday)

9am - 12.30pm

1.30pm - 6pm

Wednesday & Saturday Closed

Consultations by appointment

**24hour 7day
Emergency Service**

16 Holywell St, Abbey Foregate

Shrewsbury SY2 5DB

01743 232713

High Ridge, Wem Rd

Shawbury SY4 4NW

01939 250655



Your Pets Our Priority

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