

Spring 2013

Bad Behaviour?!

Our pets can give great joy and happiness, but if a behavioural problem occurs, the pleasure can turn to desperation as you try your best to cope with it. No matter what you do, nothing seems to be working! The behavioural problem is escalating and you are at the end of your tether. From your pet's point of view, they are not too happy either, as behavioural issues can mean that your dog or cat is struggling with a problem in their life. Humans can talk through their worries or bad experiences, but our pets show their feelings by the way they behave, like wagging their tail when they are happy. So when something is troubling them, the 'behavioural speech' they display can sometimes be misunderstood, and labelled as 'bad behaviour'.

What are they trying to tell you?

Behind a behavioural problem, there is an underlying cause. The key is to identify and understand what triggers it, so as to help rectify the actions.

The Wrecked Living Room!

**Torn Cushions - Soiled Carpet
Paintwork Scratched**

The dog is excessively panting and agitated. The first reaction?
What a bad dog!

However this destructive behaviour could be the signs of 'separation anxiety'.

This pet has become very dependent on the presence of one person, and when they go out, the fear of being separated is too much to bear. Panic then triggers a complete melt down, resulting in the living room disaster.

Oh No! A cat will spray to mark out their territory. Outside this is acceptable behaviour, but indoors it is not. Cats do not like change, they like a routine lifestyle in their territory to know they are safe. So from their viewpoint, when this is threatened, anxiousness sets in. They attempt to defend their territory and lifestyle by spraying/markings.

Their confidence has been badly shaken and needs rebuilding. Has another cat entered their 'space'? A recent house move, or newly arrived baby can upset your cat's routine.

Help is Available

Behavioural problems can include anything from ripping cushions to major aggression. There is no need for you or your pet to suffer, as help is available. Discussing the difficulties, will be the first step forward to resolving the problem. With a little time and perseverance, you and your pet can achieve a more enjoyable and 'well-behaved' life together. Please call us for further information.

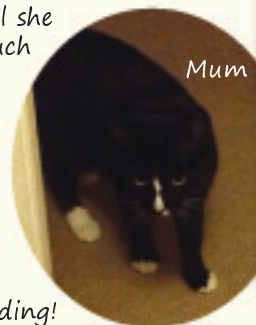
.....And they all lived happily ever after!

On a chilly autumn morning in October 2012, one weary young cat with her three kittens arrived at our practice in Shawbury. Found locally by a member of the public, these tiny babies who were about two weeks old at the time, huddled closely to Mum. It is a hard life for a cat to be living and caring for her kittens on the streets, and if they were to survive, she would need to keep them well-fed. Luckily for the kittens, Mum had done a good job so far, but she was struggling for energy and had just about used up all her resources. We wanted to ensure she could continue with this important nurturing of her young ones.

So here at Abbey with lots of love, cuddles and food, she gained weight, and her condition quickly improved.

After a few more weeks of Mum's milk, we began weaning the babies onto kitten food. They were becoming stronger and more playful by the day, so now was the time to search for new loving homes, and fortunately we were very successful! The first two kittens to leave the nest were Bella and Sandy, as named by their new owners. They have settled well into their new home, and for us there is an added bonus. We still get to see our feline friends quite often, as their lovely family live locally. The third kitten, Darcy was also lucky, as a client's friend in Yorkshire gave her a cosy home. We have regular progress reports, and are told that Darcy enjoys the evenings snuggled up to her new owner on the settee.

So what has happened to the Mum who although exhausted, gave all she had to her young ones in such desperate times? Well very happily, she also found a safe and caring home of her own. Her new family are clients here at Abbey, so we often see Mum, when she visits our practice. We just love a happy ending!



Bella & Sandy

ABBKEY
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

Be Aware of Lungworm

Over the past few years, we have seen the emergence of the parasite more commonly known as Lungworm (*Angiostrongylus vasorum*). It is a parasite that can infect dogs and potentially result in a number of quite different symptoms. It was originally seen in France, but has moved across the channel and is now present in the UK and Ireland.



ARNOLD'S AILMENTS

'Hello vet please help I'm in a spot of trouble
I really need to see you and at the double
My skin's been itching all through the night
And this morning I've had an awful fright
Looking in the mirror at my own reflection
I fear I have some sort of nasty infection
I scratched at the itch it was driving me mad
And now my skin looks really quite bad'
'I'll see you now' said the vet 'don't worry
You'd better get here quickly so hurry
This sounds like some sort of skin complaint
No Arnold it's okay it won't make you faint!
Ah you've arrived please can you stand still?'
Poor Arnold was by now feeling quite ill
'Mmm' said the vet 'your skin's red and sore
You really must try not to scratch anymore
This can be due to a number of reasons
Like an allergy to food or even the seasons
Could be house dust pollen fleas or mites
But tests will soon tell us which one is right'
'What?' Arnold said 'allergic to food!
Hey vet now I'm in a very bad mood'
'There's really no need to think the worst
Let's do tests and maybe medication at first
This irritating problem won't normally cease
Scratching and licking just makes it increase
I am so pleased you came to see me today
We can now treat you without further delay'

How does a dog become infected?

By eating snails, slugs or frogs, which are infected with this parasite. However, a dog can also catch lungworm indirectly.

If snails/slugs have had contact with the dog's toys in the garden

Eating grass where snails/slugs have been

From outside drinking water bowls

Drinking from puddles.

So it is not only the **snail and slug** that can transmit the infection, but also the **mucus-trail** they leave behind.

What should owners look out for?

Any breed, at any age can become infected with lungworm. There are some dogs that show no clinical signs, but there are many symptoms a dog could display. They can have problems breathing and may cough. Lungworm can alter blood clotting within the dog's body, causing excessive bleeding even from minor wounds. Other common signs include - weight loss, vomiting and diarrhoea. Sadly, it has even been reported that lungworm can cause sudden death.

Treatment and Prevention

A spot-on treatment called Advocate can be used to treat and prevent the infection. Applied once monthly on the skin between the shoulder blades, it also covers against other common parasites like fleas, mites and most of the gut parasites (except tapeworm). As with many diseases, prevention is better than cure and this is indeed true with regards to Lungworm.



Plane Train Ship or Road

Which mode of transport will you take to travel to your holiday destination? The new PETS passport rules introduced in 2012, have now made it a much quicker process to obtain the necessary documents for travelling abroad with your pets. It is important to remember though, when making plans for your cat or dog to accompany you, that some countries overseas can have different diseases, which your pets will need protection against.

Leishmaniasis

This disease is not caused by a virus entering the body, but actually a parasite, which is introduced into the system by the sandfly insect as it bites and feeds. The parasite causes a variety of problems, as it destroys cells, the immune system and organs. This disease has been under research for many years due to its complexity. Up to just recently, the only protection owners could provide for their pet, were precautionary methods. However, we are pleased to report that a breakthrough has been made, and a **vaccination is now available** to help protect your pet against this disease. It will not prevent your dog from being bitten by an infected sandfly. So for added protection the following precautions should also be carried out, while your pet is abroad with you.



Sandfly Area
Leishmaniasis affected

Protect your dog with a Scalibor Collar or spot on treatments

Restrict the time they spend outdoors between dusk and dawn

Maintain regular flea, tick and worming treatments

Please contact us before embarking on your travels with your cat or dog, so we can discuss and provide suitable protection for your pet against diseases, ticks and other parasites in the countries you are visiting.



Your Pets Our Priority

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