

# How Does Your Dog Smell?

**olfaction** n. the act or capacity of smelling; the sense of smell.

*Your dog's nose is an amazing piece of equipment! A human's primary sense is sight, but for canines it is the sense of smell. This highly developed sense helps your pet understand the world they live in.*

As a dog's nose hits the air, it can detect, taste and even remember minute odours, giving past and up to the minute neighbourhood news! A dog has the ability to breathe and smell at the same time. A fold of tissue inside the nose, helps split the airflow as it enters the nostrils, so that all the wonderful odours are diverted down one path for identification in the brain.

## Nose Facts

*Odour particles stick and accumulate inside the nose making the scent intense.*

*The area of a dog's brain that identifies all the smells, is about 40 times larger than a human's.*

*Scent (olfactory) receptors range from 125-300 million depending on the breed, compared to humans who have only 5-6 million.*

*Nostrils move independently, so informing the dog which direction the news is coming from!*

*A puppy has heat sensors in their nose, so Mum can be found in those early days of life when eyes and ears are closed.*

*Noses are generally cool and moist, which is caused by the mucus lining; a warm dry nose does not necessarily indicate illness, but any concerns always contact your vet.*

*Dark in colour, but a nose can be pale, pinkish even spotted. If it fades to brown in winter and returns to normal colour in summer, it is known as a 'snow nose'.*

*With this remarkable sense, dogs are now being trained to detect illness in humans, such as cancer and diabetes.*



## Nose Problems

Sneezing is natural, however if it becomes too regular or excessive, it is a good idea for us to check your pet.

### They may be suffering from

an allergy to food, pollen, dust etc.

an infection because of a dental or fungal problem.  
a possible tumour/polyp.

a foreign body e.g. a grass seed. We have even heard of paper clips, dead insects, tinsel, string and a 12cm stick removed from noses!

Any signs of a crusty nose, discharge or blood, then contact us immediately for advice.

*If you would like further information, do not hesitate to ask..... oh and if you thought you had a good hiding place for your dog's treats.....guess what? Your pet already knows where they are!*

## Long in the Tooth

*Bugs Bunny may have two very long front teeth as part of his cartoon character, but in the real world of rabbits, overgrown teeth can be very painful and unpleasant for your pet!*



The molars and premolars are known as the cheek teeth. A rabbit's teeth grow continuously, but the grinding, chewing and rotary action of the upper and lower cheek teeth while eating, help 'wear down' the length. However, if for some reason this action does not happen, from possibly a wrong diet or the teeth are not aligned correctly, then problems begin to occur.

### Signs to watch out for

Unable to chew/not eating ● Weight loss  
Nasal discharge ● Runny eyes ● Drooling  
Abscess ● Mouth cuts ● Pain

### Rabbits don't just eat carrots!

An important part of your rabbit's diet is hay and grass, which help grind down the teeth. This food also provides a high source of fibre to assist the digestive system. An all in one pellet food is better than a mix, as your rabbit may pick out the tasty bits and leave the essential nutritious bits behind!

A limited amount of fresh fruit and veg is okay, but we can discuss in detail exactly what is best to feed your rabbit to help stop dental problems occurring. Bring your rabbit along, so we can check over their teeth to ensure all is in order. Call our reception for an appointment.

## ABBEY hours

Shrewsbury

01743 232713

Monday to Friday

8.30am - 7pm

Saturday 8.30am - 12noon

Shawbury

01939 250655

Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday and Friday

9am-1pm & 2.30pm-6.30pm

Saturday and Wednesday

Closed

Consultations by appointment

24hour 7day

Emergency Service

# Abbey Vets Nurse Clinics



## Don't weight until it's too late!

Dare we even think about how much comfort food we have eaten over the cold winter months! Dogs and cats never appear to experience guilt feelings about what type or how much food they devour! Owners give it and pets eat it.....it's as simple as that, but just like us, their waistlines do expand!

### Do you think you could be overfeeding your pet?

Tubby and chubby are just 'cute' names pets can be called when they are looking a little rotund. **Obesity is not cute, as for pets to be overweight is a serious problem.**

Overfeeding, incorrect diet, titbits, table scraps and lack of daily exercise, all contribute to pets being fat. That slice of buttered toast you have just given your cat or dog, is equivalent to your pet eating a whole burger! Combine this with their normal daily intake of food, plus lack of exercise, and there you have it, the perfect recipe for weight gain!

**Obesity Health Problems** Heart disease Diabetes Arthritis High blood pressure Breathing difficulties

**Take Action!** If your pet's weight is heavy on your mind, then now is the time to contact us. We offer free nurse clinics, where our friendly team can help your pet lose those unhealthy kilos and maintain a perfect weight. Sometimes there can be an underlying condition that is causing your pet to be overweight. So before embarking on any new diet or exercise plan, it is always best to seek advice from us. **Remember we are here to help you keep your pet healthy and happy!**

## Reminder!

If your dog is not yet microchipped, then call us now to book an appointment. **From 6 April 2016 your dog must be microchipped by law.** Also ensure that any existing microchip contact details are correct. For more information, please do contact us.

**Updates!** Have you recently moved house, got a new mobile number or email address? Then you need to call us, so we can update your details and patient records on our database. Having the correct information is vital, in case of an emergency involving your pet.



Your Pets Our Priority

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find us on facebook

www.abbeyvetsshrewsbury.co.uk



.....helping you maintain your pet's routine healthcare

We are very pleased to report that a wide range of Nurse Clinics are available with **Tracie RVN.** Tracie is here with help and advice towards your pets' routine healthcare.

Guidance is given on worming, flea treatments, nutrition, weight loss/control and exercise. **Free Dental Checks** are available and Tracie will even show you how to clean your pet's teeth! **Elderly pets** can quietly visit for tips on special care in their senior years, while the young ones can come along to our **Puppy and Kitten Meet and Greet Clinic**, which will happily introduce your pet to us and the veterinary practice. No scary needles or stingy liquids, just a gentle and fun visit, with lots of cuddles and treats. A good way of socialising your new pet and providing a positive first visit to the vets!

**So pop along to our FREE Nurse Clinics, which are available at our Shrewsbury and Shawbury practices, by appointment.**

## Mi Groomer Dog Grooming.....Now Open!

If grooming or bathing your pet at home is a problem, then we have the solution right here at our Shawbury practice. Smooth, thick, short, long, curly or wiry, all coats require grooming, and with regular care by our in-house groomer **Jinnie**, your cat or dog can say goodbye to bad hair days! A bath and blow dry, a quick brush, nail clipping, or a complete head to toe groom, are all available on a **Thursday or Friday**, and will help keep your pet's coat in tip top condition. Regular grooming also provides the opportunity to spot any health problems in their early stages such as ticks, fleas, lumps or skin conditions, and while your pet is at our practice, they benefit from full veterinary support.

**For more information or to book an appointment call Shawbury branch on 01939 250655.**

