



A chewed slipper, puddles on the floor, and squeaky toys strewn around the room. Your new puppy has arrived in the household, and after the morning's play of fun is now looking very cute asleep on your sofa! Life certainly changes when a new pet joins the family. From the time those small paws step through the door, your pet will depend on you for a lifetime of love, food, security and healthcare. This young one will also need your support in experiencing new encounters and some very important socialisation, particularly in those early days of puppyhood.

Learning Curve At first everything is a little scary for your puppy, especially being away from Mum and the rest of the litter, but it is usually not too long before they settle into their new home. They become braver and with a naturally inquisitive nature, show little fear at 'testing the ground', even if it is met with a swipe on the nose from the cat. Lesson One....approach the cat less boisterously next time! Under three months of age, they are most responsive to accepting new encounters. So the sooner they have social interaction with people, other animals, supervised meetings with children, exposure to noise, and experience of the world in general.... the better.

Little by Little Once your puppy's vaccination course is complete, they can venture outside. Gradually introduce new experiences like - lead walking in the town - countryside and park travelling in the car - crowds and traffic - ducks on the pond. Remember they are only young. At times your puppy may become a little anxious or over-excited. Consider their character. Shy or confident? Just like young children, a puppy's attention span can be short, they tire easily too, and although life is very interesting and thrilling, it may also be overwhelming.

The Key Work to establish a positive reaction from the encounter. Negative responses can generate fear, which might be difficult to rectify at a later stage. Familiarising your puppy with a wide range of experiences will help with their development and behaviour, so they mature into happy, socialised adult dogs.

If you would like to learn more, please call the practice and a member of our friendly team will be happy to help you.



Bad Hair Day

....not with our new grooming service at Shawbury!

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. 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. Regular care also provides the opportunity to spot any health problems in their early stages such as fleas, ticks, lice, lumps or skin conditions.

So if your pooch could do with some pampering in the hair department, call our Shawbury branch for further details on our complete grooming service.



I Got Lost Last Week....

and what a nightmare!

These things do happen...the side gate had blown open and those smells from the other side were so tempting and off I went! Luckily for me though I am microchipped, so when this kind lady took me into the vets, they were able to scan me and call my Mum. Phew! If your pet is not microchipped, then now is the time to get straight to Abbey Veterinary Clinic and do the deed! They currently have a **special offer of just £9.99** to have your pets safely protected against loss. Microchipping is a quick, reliable and permanent way to identify and happily reunite lost dogs and cats with their owners. The chip holds a unique ID number that is logged on a central computer database, which is accessible 24 hours a day. Veterinary clinics, various rescue centres and dog wardens, use a special scanner to read the ID number, which is then matched with the owner's details. After a couple of phone calls, your pet is safe back home with you. Microchipping is as simple as vaccinating your pet, and as **from April 2016 will be compulsory by law**. So take advantage of their low cost offer now!

ABB EY 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

★★★★★ Five Star Accommodation for your Rabbits

At local DIY stores people are found buying anything from comfy cushions to draught excluder, to help make their homes a more pleasant environment to live in. For those pet rabbits living outdoors, they require basic comforts too, plus a whole lot more!

★ Natures Needs

Rabbits are inquisitive, active, intelligent and sociable. In the wild they always live with other rabbits. So one pet rabbit kept in a cramped wooden hutch at the bottom of a garden, is leading a very lonely and unhappy life indeed. Rabbits need company, and in captivity male and female pairs work well, provided they are neutered. They also need to forage for food, dig, feel secure, hide, hop, stand on their hind legs and explore.



★ Just a hutch?

A rabbits' accommodation must provide opportunities to allow expression of natural behaviour. They require choice and control within their own home. All of this can be achieved through quantity and quality of space, plus environmental enrichment.

★ The Ideal Home

This must suit the number of rabbits you are planning to keep, their size, age and any medical conditions. They will require - **Raised, secure and**

adequate sized housing for privacy and safety,

together with an **outdoor enclosure**. Both must allow your rabbits to:

- ✓ **easily stand up on their hind legs**
- ✓ **lie fully outstretched**
- ✓ **make at least 3 consecutive hops**
- ✓ **turn around unhindered**

Visit www.rabbitwelfare.co.uk for full information on housing and run size.

★ During building consider -

The type of materials/preservation treatments are **not toxic** or will cause injury to your rabbits.

Ventilation and provision of shade in both in and outdoor areas, as they can suffer heatstroke in the summer. Will the housing be **warm and draught free in winter**; dry, strong and **escape/predator proof**?

Positioning of outside enclosure, as **some plants are poisonous** to rabbits.

Hiding places like cardboard boxes, large tubes etc. plus platforms, separate areas for eating, sleeping and toileting.

★ Environmental Enrichments

will help your rabbits express their natural behaviour. **An earth pit** - rabbits love to dig! Provide tree stumps, twigs and suitable toys. **Encourage 'foraging of food'** by filling boxes, cardboard tubes or racks with hay. Place food in puzzle feeders or scatter the pellets amongst hay.

Remember to regularly inspect their accommodation for damage or hazards that require repair or removal.

When you provide a suitable home to meet all your rabbits needs mentally and physically, you are helping to keep your pets healthy and happy. When rabbits do a jumping and twisting action, this is called 'the binky', which they do when life is good!



Come Rain or Shine

Even if the sun is not shining, and that's not unusual for a British summer, temperatures can still rise, and affect our pets in the form of heatstroke (hyperthermia), an increase of body temperature. A cloudy humid day can cause a higher heat in our homes, conservatories and gardens. As our pets' cooling system is not as efficient as ours, they can very quickly become overheated and dehydrated.

Aim to Prevent

Never leave your pet in the car or conservatory

Ensure access to shady cool areas in and outdoors

Regulate time spent in sun and heat

Exercise in cooler morning or evening air

Provide fresh cool drinking water

Guinea Pigs, Rabbits, Ferrets etc.

Position housing, outside run & water in shade

Ensure hutch has good ventilation

Recognising Heatstroke

increased panting - excessive saliva

anxiousness - dark gums - vomiting

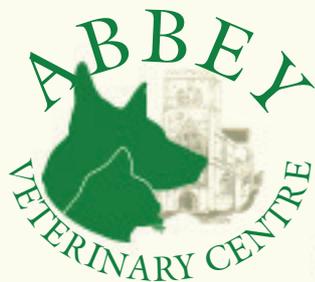
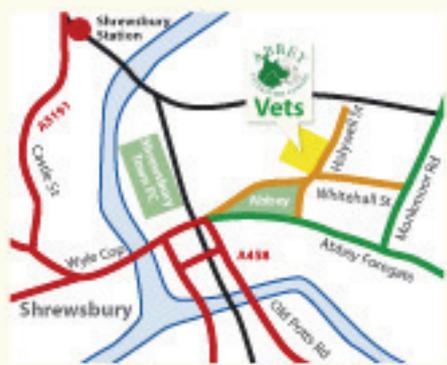
reluctant to rise - dizziness - collapse

Pets can recover from heatstroke, but it is a serious condition. The key is early recognition and prompt action.....better still prevent it!

If you suspect your pet is **suffering from heatstroke** move them to a cool area and **immediately contact your vet.**



And The Nominees are..... Abbey Vets are proud to announce that our Shrewsbury practice was recently nominated for the Pet Plan awards for Vet Practice of the Year. We were very excited and pleased to have been put forward for such an esteemed award. So a very big 'thank you' to all our clients for the nomination.



Your Pets Our Priority

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