

Irritation Irritation Irritation!



CAMERON & GREIG
VETERINARY SURGEONS

Winter 2011/12

News



Just think how much easier it would be if our pets could talk to us. With a few words of 'my leg hurts, my eyes feel sore, I have a toothache or I'm itching all over', we would immediately know they had a problem. But talking animals are only in the movies! So it is up to us, to look out for any unusual behaviour, like **excessive** licking, scratching and nibbling, as this could be your pet's way of telling you that something is up!

Nibbling the Itch If you have ever found yourself in one of those vicious circles, you will know just how frustrating it can be. The more you try sorting the problem, the worse it gets! For a moment put yourself in your pet's paws. There is an itchy patch on your leg. You have licked and nibbled to ease it, but the more you do, the more irritating it gets. You have made it very red and sore, and now the irritation has begun on the other leg too. This could be a skin condition developing, due to a number of possible causes. Maybe you have a bacterial or yeast infection, an allergy to food, house dust, or the environment. Ear disease, damp or poorly groomed coats, flea and mite infestations can also be a factor.

The Underlying Cause Skin conditions can develop anywhere on your pet's skin. Leaving them to continuously lick, scratch and nibble will only make matters worse, resulting in a non-stop and painful irritation for your pet.

It is important that the underlying cause is identified and treated.

We will examine your pet, and have an in-depth chat about their lifestyle, what they eat, where they exercise etc. Skin and hair tests may also assist us in diagnosis.

Watch out for

- **excessive or constant licking, scratching and gnawing**
- **agitated behaviour** ● **hair loss**
- **redness/sore areas of skin** ● **shaking head & ears**
- **pawing at the face or rubbing against furniture**

If you notice any of the above, please bring your pet along for a check-up without delay.



Surgery Hours

Consultations by appointment

Milnathort

01577 863494

Monday to Friday

8.30am to 7pm

Saturday 8.30am to 12.30pm

Cowdenbeath

01383 611410

Monday to Friday

8.30am to 6.30pm

Saturday 9.30am to 11.30am

Tillicoultry

01259 753375

Monday to Friday

8.30am to 6.30pm

Saturday 10.30am to 12.30pm

24hr 7day Emergency Cover

by our own vets and from

Milnathort branch

01577 863494



I Got Lost Last Weekand 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! Such great fun it was but after a while I got peckish so time for home...uh where am I? My heart thumped with fear as this human appeared "So little one you lost? Oh dear, no collar - no id tag... better take you to the police station". Here another human came and ran this thing across my body. "Mmm no microchip". Uh what? Micro... what chip...ah good something to eat, but no. I was put in a strange cage in a van, taken to this place and put into a kennel. Scary...but they were most kind to

me, gave me food, but my appetite had gone! Was this to be my new home, would I ever see my mum again, or sleep on my special bed? What was to become of me?

The next morning brought a voice I knew. Oh joy...it was my Mum! She'd found me...but what a job...been pounding the streets for hours, calling my name, made numerous telephone calls and not a wink of sleep, she told the other humans! They said how very lucky she was to have found me, and it would have been easier if I'd been microchipped, as it's a **quick, reliable and permanent** way to identify, and happily reunite lost dogs and cats with their owners.

So now back in my familiar car with my lovely mum, I'm straight off to the vets to be microchipped. I'll then have my own ID number logged on a central computer database, which is accessible 24 hours a day. If I get lost again, a special scanner, held by various rescue centres, dog wardens, and veterinary practices reads this ID number, and after a quick call... hey presto, I'm back home again! No more getting lost for me, and no more worry for my Mum!

Festive Food Encounters

Thoughts are probably turning towards the festive season, when all the advance preparation of baking Christmas cakes and steaming puddings begins. Please be aware that a main ingredient used in these foods are raisins. **It has been found that raisins and grapes can be toxic to dogs.** Although it is still unclear as to why these fruits are poisonous, if ingested, the dog could suffer kidney failure.

Please put all packages or any foods containing raisins and also fresh grapes, well out of your pet's reach. If you do suspect that your dog has eaten these fruits, or recognise any signs of -

restlessness, vomiting, diarrhoea, lethargy, stomach pain or a reluctance to eat, immediately contact the surgery for advice.



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www.cameronandgreigvets.co.uk



Look a Little Closer...at your Cat

Do you think they have lost weight despite having a huge appetite? Are they behaving anxiously or appear agitated? If you answered yes, then a check-up might be in order for your cat, as they could be suffering from **hyperthyroidism** (over-active thyroid glands). This is a common condition, which we see in middle-aged and older cats.

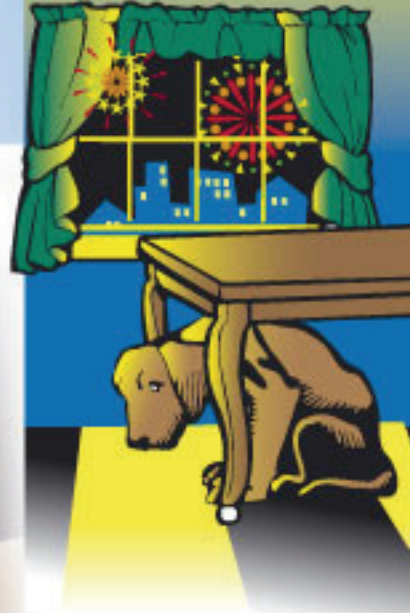
The thyroid glands are found on either side of the trachea (windpipe). Their function is to regulate the body's metabolism by producing a hormone. If too little is produced everything slows down. If too much, the body's processes speed up. So it is very important that these glands function correctly to enable the body to run normally.

Hyperthyroidism is generally easy to diagnose through a combination of clinical signs and blood tests. In most cases, the imbalance can be rectified by medication or surgery.

If you would like further information or have any concerns, please contact our surgery for an appointment.

Fireworks screech and fizz in the winter night,
But have you thought they may be causing a fright
To pets who are hiding under tables and stairs,
Nervous and bewildered at the sudden flares.

Spare a few moments to prepare a quiet place,
With toys, treats, blankets and a friendly face.
Play a game, be happy don't scold fearful pets,
And remember help and advice are here at the vets.



Is everything covered?

With busy lifestyles these days, it is inevitable that something will be forgotten! Check out our list below, to help you maintain that all-important routine preventative healthcare.

Primary Vaccinations or Boosters are they due?

Protect your pet from illness, and help keep infectious, often fatal diseases at a low level in the animal community.

Fleas Ticks and Worms A year round problem. Regular effective treatments are available, so please contact us and we can suggest those suitable for your pet.

Kennel Cough Vaccination required?

If your pet is boarding, ensure they are protected in plenty of time, as this disease is spread via airborne droplets and nose-to-nose contact.

Teeth Regular check-ups and brushing help to prevent tooth decay, gum disease and keep breath fragrant. Our nurses can show you how to clean your pet's teeth.

Weight Watch Too many treats and lack of exercise may result in your pet piling on the pounds, causing them to be at risk from heart disease, diabetes and arthritis. We can advise on diet, suitable exercise and provide regular weigh-ins.

Ears Important for hearing and balance, so any signs of excess wax, nasty odour, frequent scratching or rubbing, pop your pet in for a check-up.

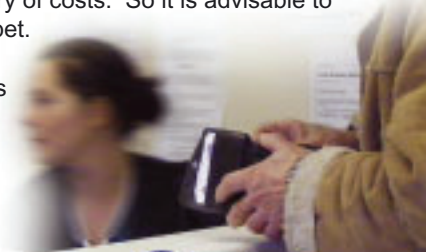
Eyes Sensitive and complex. Discharge, weepiness, red or sore looking eyes, should be examined as soon as possible.

Claws Need a quick trim? Our experienced nurses can assist.



The Unexpected

So now you have your pet's routine healthcare in hand, what about those cases of sudden illness or accidents? They can happen when you are least expecting them, and be an anxious time for owners, but take comfort that we are here to care for your poorly pet. The constant advancement of modern veterinary medicine, enables us to diagnose and treat a wide range of conditions that may previously have been incurable. However, such treatments can often incur expensive procedures and the last thing you need is the added worry of costs. So it is advisable to consider lifelong insurance for your pet. Instead of worrying about the financial expense of tests, operations and treatments, you can relax knowing that your chosen insurance company can help cover the cost. There are many different policies available, so it is important to read them thoroughly to see exactly what is included.



CAMERON & GREIG
VETERINARY SURGEONS

Companion Animal, Equine & Farm

Milnathort 01577 863494

Ardmohr, Stirling Road KY13 9XR

Cowdenbeath 01383 611410

60 Stenhouse Street KY4 9DD

Tillicoultry 01259 753375

Unit 1 & 2 Barnpark Drive FK13 6BZ



Milnathort

All out of hours emergencies are covered from Milnathort

