

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 the house this is acceptable behaviour, but inside 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 then 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 a 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.

As Time Goes By There is something that we all have in common, animals and humans alike...we grow old!

Whatever stage of life your pet is entering, the ageing process will affect the way in which their bodies function. Constant yet sometimes subtle changes occur in their physical condition. You may notice a little weight gain or incontinence, but others are not so visible, like sore joints, failing eyesight or loss of hearing. Organs like the thyroid glands, liver, heart or kidneys may also not function correctly. Rather than wait until your pet shows signs of illness, be prepared by being one step ahead. Come along to the surgery, where our vets and nurses can advise you about tests and checks that can help your pet during the ageing process, especially as they enter their senior years.

Regular health and blood checks

- Identify problems in their early stages.
- Assess the condition of teeth, ears, eyes and weight.
- Show the start of more hidden conditions such as heart disease, diabetes or arthritis.

Once all the tests are complete, if your pet is developing a condition of any kind, we can discuss the many forms of treatment that modern veterinary medicine now provides. Not all conditions can be cured, but with a few alterations to your pets' lifestyle and any necessary treatments, we can help towards improving their quality of life as they grow older.



Staff News
 We say a fond farewell to..... one of our vets **Vicky**, who has recently located south to follow her husband's new army posting. In her place we **welcome** local girl **Beth Pritchard** to the

Westwood family. She joined us here at the beginning of January, and has a particular interest in equine and small animal work.

Outside of the practice she enjoys riding and skiing



Westwood hours
 Consultations by appointment only

Boston Spa
 01937 842210
 Monday to Friday 8.30am - 6pm
 Saturday 8.30am - 1pm

Garforth
 01132 320085
 Monday to Friday 8.30am - 6pm
**24 Hour 7day
 Emergency Service**
 by our own Vets for
Pets Equine and Farm

Safe Spring Cleaning!

Love it or hate it, the house, garden and car are beckoning a 'freshen up' after the winter months, but as we get dusters, cleaners and garden gear to the ready, please be aware that various products can be poisonous to your pets. Sadly in some cases they can be fatal.

Carefully read instructions on use and storage of DIY, home, garden and car products such as **weed killers, slug pellets, rat & mice bait, detergents, creosote, oil, paint or brush cleaners.**

Provide animal proof storage Cats climb and balance extremely well, and the most determined dog, will get that cupboard open!

Slug Pellets contain the toxic chemical metaldehyde. Please take great care when using them in your gardens. **Cocoa Mulch** smells very appealing to dogs, but contains theobromine, which can cause problems if eaten by your pet.

Please call us for further information or advice, if you think your pet has ingested or come into contact with a poisonous substance. This is urgent, as it can cause a wide range of symptoms, from a minor stomach upset to organ failure.

Signs to watch out for include:
vomiting - drooling/frothing
panting - agitation - diarrhoea
muscle tremors - lethargy



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'

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.



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