

Balancing Act

If you have ever been on a roller coaster ride or suffered seasickness, you will know only too well how disorientated it can make you feel, and also at times rather unwell! We breathe a sigh of relief when our feet are firmly back on solid ground, and we are in complete control of our senses again. Your pet also likes to feel that same stability and they have a sensory system, which keeps everything perfectly balanced.

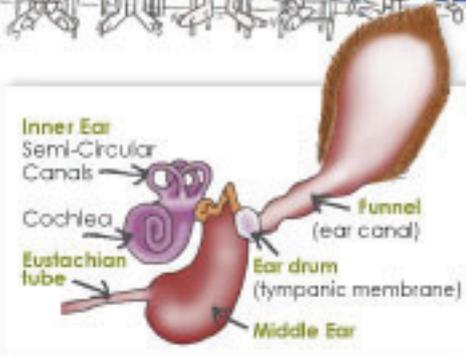
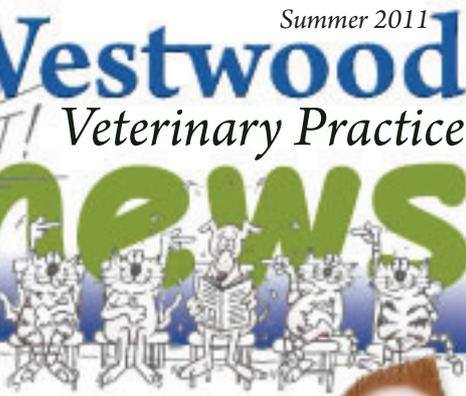


The vestibular system is responsible for this balance function, and consists of nerves that run between the inner ear and the brain. When your cat or dog stands up, sits down, jumps and even runs around in circles, the special sensors within this system, signal the brain to ensure that equilibrium is maintained. However, if a problem occurs it can cause this system to break down and produce a condition called **vestibular disease**.

There are two forms - **Peripheral**, which is associated to the inner ear, and **Central** due to a problem occurring within the brain.

The symptoms of vestibular disease can happen quite suddenly, and unfortunately be rather distressing for your pet, as it causes extreme dizziness and disorientation.

- Signs include** Stumbling/staggering
- Uncoordinated movements
- Falling or rolling
- Eyes drifting side to side or up and down
- Difficulty placing feet to the ground
- Head tilting to either side
- Circling Vomiting



Should your cat or dog show any of these signs, contact us immediately. Try to keep them calm in a small, safe area and away from any steps, so as to prevent injuries occurring due to their loss of balance.

Vestibular disease may happen for a number of reasons, such as an ear infection, polyps, a tumour or thyroid problems, but it can at times be difficult to determine the actual cause. Once at the surgery, we will examine your pet, and carry out tests to try and identify the underlying reason, so that the appropriate treatment can be administered.

If you would like further advice or information, please do not hesitate to call us.

Lily Blunder at Premiere

With my job as a high profile reporter, I'm always receiving invites to cover various events. Glitzy, very enjoyable and a perk of the job one might say! Last week I attended the film premiere of 'Cats and the City' and on arrival, found the venue adorned with lilies, which I have to say actually made me feel quite faint. Indeed a beautiful flower, but if you are a cat, you need to steer well clear of them! So I hasten to report to you all about the dangers of Lilies.

Every part of this plant is a threat to us felines, the stem, leaves, flowers, stamen and the pollen. The Tiger, Stargazer, Easter, Rubrum, Japanese and Asiatic Lily, to name but a few in the Liliaceae Family, are highly poisonous to cats. By nature, felines are inquisitive creatures, especially the young and in particular kittens. In my line of work news travels fast. There have been reports of unfortunate illness and sadly in some cases fatalities, from fallen pollen licked off coats and paws whilst grooming, to lily flowers and leaves bitten at playfully in the garden, or as they sit in a vase indoors. **It only takes just a small amount of this plant to be swallowed**, to cause vomiting, lethargy, breathing difficulties, depression and loss of appetite.



If you recognise any of these symptoms, or even suspect that your cat has been in contact or eaten any part of a lily, please take them straight to a vet for immediate treatment, as lily poisoning can cause acute kidney failure. The sooner treatment can begin the better, to help reduce the risk of permanent damage to the kidneys. So to all you cat owners out there, play it safe and avoid having lilies in your house or garden.

This was Carrie Cat reporting for Westwood Vets News.



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



Carrie Cat reporter extraordinaire!

Contact us for further information on substances, food and plants, which are poisonous to pets, or visit www.rspca.org.uk/poisoning or www.vpisuk.co.uk

Meet Laura Du Pre

BVM&S MRCVS

Veterinary
Surgeon



To become a vet takes quite a few years of training before finally qualifying, and plenty of midnight oil is burnt by students while studying for exams. However, during this time opportunities arise to work abroad, so as to gain a diverse working experience in animal care. So before Laura qualified from Edinburgh University in 2008, she went to Italy and spent time working at a spay clinic in the city of Naples.

Shortly after her graduation she joined our team here, and with an interest in surgery, is enjoying her day-to-day work with the variety of surgical cases presented here, and is keen to improve her skills in this area of veterinary medicine. She takes great pleasure in building relationships with our clients, their pets and working with everyone at Westwood.

A pet dog was high on her wish list as a child, but busy family life only allowed for three rabbits and some goldfish. However she has now fulfilled her wish with Maya, a young black working Cocker Spaniel, who she is training as a gundog.

Laura likes entertaining family and friends, photography, participating in and watching sports, music and choir singing.



Don't Forget!

With the increasing appearance of lungworm cases, ensure your pet is fully protected. Please ask for further details on treatments against this parasite.

Summer Safety



ANIMALS Our pets, make us laugh and cry. For some humans they are eyes, ears or daily helpers. They give love, cuddles and most of all, are our friends.

AGEING With regular health checks we can help your pet adjust to the 'ageing process', so they can enjoy a better quality of life in their senior years.

BOOSTERS Regular vaccination protection against infectious diseases, plays an important part in helping to keep your pets healthy, and your PETS passport valid.

BAD BREATH A sign that your pet could have dental problems! We can advise you on regular dental care to help keep their breath a little more fragrant.

Guidelines for Pets

Gardens Animals are inquisitive, so store and use all garden products wisely. Provide a shady area for guinea pigs and rabbits.

Ensure exercise runs are placed away from flowers and foliage, as some species can be poisonous to your pets if eaten.

Inspect your rabbit's bottom once or twice a day for the condition of 'flystrike'. Flies can lay eggs in this area and hatching maggots eat the skin and underlying tissue. It can be fatal, so if you suspect this problem, quickly bring your pet to the surgery, as they will require immediate veterinary attention.

It's B-B-Q time, so ensure bone debris is carefully disposed of, as these can get lodged in your pet's mouth, throat and stomach.

Sun Sunblock the tips of white cats' ears.

Regulate your pet's time spent in the sun.

Ensure animals have access to shady areas.

Exercise dogs in the cooler morning or evening air.

Heat **NEVER** leave your pet in the car, or in closed conservatories at home. Both reach oven like temperatures! Provide plenty of fresh clean drinking water. Pets can suffer from heatstroke or dehydration very quickly, which can sadly be fatal. If you see signs of increased panting, excessive salivation, anxiousness, vomiting or lethargy, call us immediately for advice.



Westwood

Veterinary Practice

Boston Spa 01937 842210

Westwood House, 106 High Street, Boston Spa, LS23 6DR

Garforth 01132 320085

Station Yard, off Station Road,
Garforth, Leeds LS25 1PY

*A Caring Way
Everyday*

www.westwoodvets.co.uk

