

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.

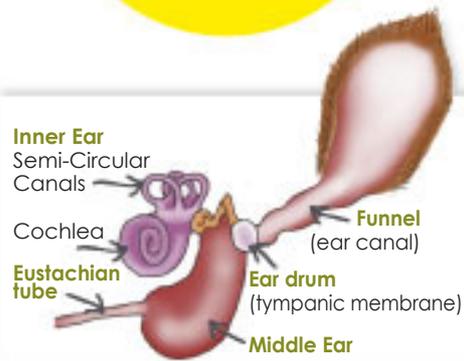
The symptoms of vestibular disease can happen quite suddenly, and unfortunately be rather distressing for your pet, as it causes extreme dizziness and disorientation.

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**

Your news

veterinary practice Summer 2011



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 Your News Channel.



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

Your hours

or anything else you prefer to include.

These spaces are not a fixed size or position.

To accommodate your items and pictures, we relocate or remove any of our content.

for more information
Phone us on
0844 5987360

No Laughing Matter



Seeing a dog scooting or dragging its rear end along the ground is quite a strange sight, and often makes people laugh. However, for your dog it is not funny, as there is a very irritating reason behind it!

Causes Your pet has anal glands that are situated either side of the anus, which produce a yellow colour fluid. This is normally released when your dog passes their faeces. Sometimes these anal glands do not empty as they naturally should, and so become full, causing your pet pain and great discomfort. In an attempt to release the fluid and ease the irritation, your dog will then 'scoot' its bottom along the ground.

What to Watch For

- Excessive nibbling/licking under the tail area and anus
- Scooting or dragging the rear end
- Sitting lopsided to avoid pressure on the full glands
- Swellings/inflammation around the anus area

Treatment

If you notice your pet having trouble, bring them along to the surgery for a check-up. Left untreated, these glands can become infected, and abscesses may form to cause further complications. In general, all that is required is for the vet to gently express the glands to clear the fluid that has built up. This is a simple but slightly disagreeable process, as the odour of this fluid is rather unpleasant! Antibiotics or anti-inflammatory medication may be prescribed, and in the more chronic cases, removal of the anal glands is sometimes necessary.

As always we are here to advise and help you with any queries you have, so please do not hesitate to contact us.



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

Guidelines for Pets

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



QUICK (dermis) that lays under

your pet's claws and over the bone, contains many blood vessels and nerves, which if cut during nail clipping is very painful and can bleed a lot. Bring your pet along to the surgery, where our experienced nurses can trim nails quickly and proficiently.

QUESTIONS about the many services and facilities we offer for the well-being of your pet are always welcome, and we are happy to provide any information you may have regarding their healthcare. So please feel free to call us or pop in for a chat.

RINGWORM is a fungus that affects the skin, and can be transmitted from direct contact with or where an infected animal has been, as fungi spores survive in the environment for long periods of time.

RHINITIS is an inflammation of the nose lining, which can be caused by a virus, or foreign matter such as dust or grass seeds being 'sniffed' up the nose. Any signs of snuffling, sneezing or nasal discharge should be checked out.



Your surgery logo
address, phone
and web