

NOW OPEN THE VET ON RICHMOND HILL

We are very pleased to announce that on 4th April 2011, the doors opened to our new branch practice. After months of building work, stocking shelves and with the all-important finishing touches in place, pets and their owners can now benefit from the many services and facilities we provide at The Vet on Richmond Hill. Partner and vet **Scott Miller** leads the team, and we introduce **Hannah Casey**, who is our full time receptionist. She looks forward to welcoming new clients to the practice, and with many years of experience in the veterinary profession, can offer advice on a variety of pet problems.

Following Alpha Vets lead in providing friendly, quality pet care to the area, The Vet on Richmond Hill offers an excellent and personal service, providing a wide range of pet healthcare from vaccinations to complicated surgical procedures, all under one roof. We are also in the process of building cat-boarding facilities, which will be ready for feline guests by Summer 2011. We look forward to meeting you and your pets, so please feel free to drop by and visit the new practice at **38 Friars Stile Rd, Richmond, TW10 6NQ** or call us on **0208 948 3737** to book an appointment.



VET SCOTT & RECEPTIONIST HANNAH



THE FULLY REFURBISHED AND EQUIPPED PRACTICE

Balancing Act

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.

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

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.

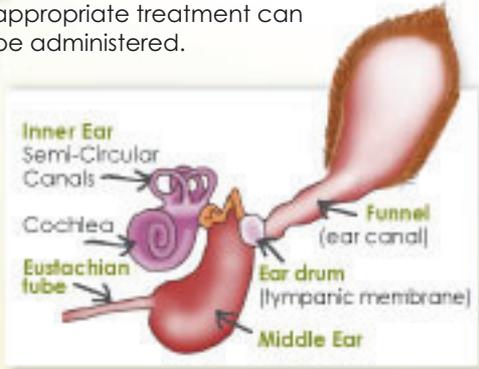
If you would like further advice or information, please do not hesitate to call us.



- 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.



SURGERY HOURS

TEDDINGTON
MONDAY - FRIDAY
09:00 - 19:00
SATURDAY
09:00 - 12:00
0208 943 2303

RICHMOND HILL
MONDAY - FRIDAY
09:00 - 19:00
SATURDAY
10:00 - 16:00
0208 948 3737
SUNDAY AND
OUT OF HOURS
0208 783 2850

Summertime Nasties

Lungworm With a massive amount of slugs slithering around our gardens, and devouring our fledgling vegetable patches this time of year, please be aware that if your dog is rather partial to snacking on these creatures, this can lead to a condition known as lungworm. Slugs carry the larvae of *Angiostrongylus vasorum* (lungworm) - a parasite that infects canines. Once the lungworm larvae are swallowed, they mature through a number of life cycles in the blood stream, eventually residing in the heart and major blood vessels supplying the lungs.



The infestation will result in coughing, or exercise intolerance and if left untreated, can often sadly be fatal. This parasite is unfortunately showing a significant prevalence in the Richmond borough, but there are monthly topical treatments to help prevent lungworm, which can easily be applied to the scruff of your pet's neck.

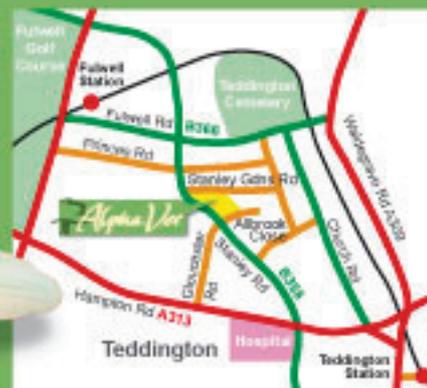
Fleas This tiny parasite is a year round problem and well known to all pet owners. Irritating bites can cause lots of scratching, sore skin and major irritation for dogs, cats and even rabbits. Some pets may suffer allergic reactions from the bites, and as this parasite can also infest our homes, a simple effective monthly flea control for all pets living together is vital.

Ticks Local dog walking enthusiasts of Richmond and Bushy parks will know all too well of the presence of local deer. While doing our best to steer clear of these nervous animals (particularly during rutting season!), they are hosts to a common parasite of our canine companions - ticks. These biting, blood-sucking creatures attach their mouths into your pets' skin to cause irritation, soreness and can even spread numerous diseases including tick fever and lymes disease. They are mainly a problem from April to September, so it is essential to protect your pets against ticks by using a topical monthly treatment during the spring and summer period.

Even though this may all sound rather unpleasant, remember these parasites are easily prevented. So drop into Alpha or The Vet on Richmond Hill for more advice on keeping these nasty parasites at bay.



Alpha Vet
IN TEDDINGTON
142-144 STANLEY ROAD
TEDDINGTON TW11 8UA
0208 943 2303



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.

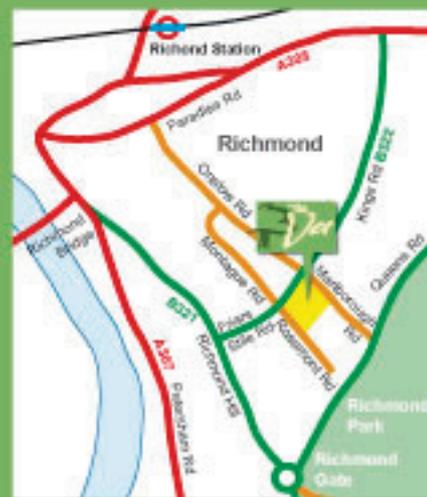
Every part of this plant is a threat to us felines, the stem, leaves, flowers, stamen and the pollen. The Tiger, Stargazer, Easter, Rubrum, Japanese and Asiatic Lily, to name but a few in the Liliaceae Family, are highly poisonous to cats. By nature, felines are inquisitive creatures, especially the 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 Alpha Vets News Channel.

The Vet ON
RICHMOND HILL
38 FRIARS STILE ROAD
RICHMOND TW10 6NQ
0208 948 3737



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