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Fit for Life Senior Clinic

Did you know that 25% of pets over 7 years of age have heart disease ?

Did you know that a 7 year old dog is equivalent to a 50 year old human ?

As your pets get older their bodies and brains change, resulting in problems including obesity, dental disease, and arthritis. Many of these conditions can be readily treated or controlled, and the earlier we notice them the better.

You may have noticed some of the following changes in your older pet recently:

- increased drinking
- coughing

- smelly breath
- stiffness
- weight change
- changes in their coat.

If so, it may be time for your pet to have a Fit for Life health examination.

Our new Fit for Life health examination is designed to ensure that as your cat or dog ages they can enjoy a healthy and active life. The Fit for Life health assessment is for cats and dogs over 7 years of age and is carried out by our vets and qualified nurses. The assessment includes:

- a full veterinary physical examination and health check, including blood pres-

sure measurement, specific dietary, dental, behavioural and exercise advice which is tailored to the individual needs of your older pet,

blood and urine tests to check for diseases including, diabetes, kidney and liver disease, thyroid problems, anaemia and many others.

To arrange a Fit for Life assessment, please telephone the practice, or for further information, please visit our website, www.peakvets.co.uk



Opening Hours

- **Monday—Friday**
8 am - 9 pm
 - **Saturday**
9 am - 3 pm
 - **Sunday**
11 am - 1 pm
- 24 Hour on site
emergency service

Arthritis in cats - new painkilling drug in a liquid formulation

Arthritic pain is a common problem in cats, with radiographic signs of arthritis present in 90% of cats by the time they have reached 12 years of age. Arthritis may be associated with stiffness, an increase in sleeping time, reluctance to jump up, and reduced grooming leading to an

unkempt coat. To reduce the signs of arthritis, a new painkilling medication, Metacam, is now available in an easy to give, once daily, liquid formulation for cats. If you notice that your cat is beginning to show signs such as stiffness or an unkempt coat, please contact us at the surgery to book

an examination. If you think your cat would benefit from Metacam, we can provide you with the first month's course free of charge during the month of October.



Blood Donation



Fresh blood after donation.

Peak Vets recently became the first veterinary practice in the country to host a blood donation day in conjunction with Pet Blood Bank UK, an animal blood donation charity.

The process of giving blood is generally a simple procedure. It involves a quick blood test to measure your dog's red blood cell level and blood type. A unit of blood is then taken from the jugular vein in the neck, whereupon the different parts of blood are separated before being re-refrigerated.

The blood can then be stored or transported around the country to other dogs that require it.

If you have a dog who is:

fit and healthy,

between 1 and 8 years of age,

over 25 kgs in weight,

vaccinated,

and not on any long term medication,

your dog may be eligible to be

a blood donor. Please contact us at the surgery if you would like your dog to donate blood on our next blood donation day.

For more information, please visit our website:

www.peakvets.co.uk

or the pet bloodbank website:

www.petbloodbankuk.co.uk



Health issue of the month: otitis externa

Otitis refers to the many types of inflammatory disease that can affect the ear, all of which frequently culminate in infection, discharge and pain. Bacterial and yeast infections are commonly present and require treatment using appropriate antimicrobial therapy.

These can occur as a consequence of other underlying problems including parasites, foreign bodies, masses, chemical irritants and allergic diseases.

The ear mite, *Otodectes cynotis*, can provoke a large amount of discomfort and exudate which can be seen crusting around the ear canal opening. They are usually present in abundance and are easily identified by microscopic examination of a swab from the ear canal. Grass seeds are a common foreign body during the summer and autumn months. These seeds become caught in the hair

around the ear and migrate into the canal where they become lodged causing considerable pain. Recurrent otitis may have an allergic basis and recognition of this, with introduction of appropriate treatment, is essential for the resolution of the problem.

If untreated, the ear canal lining may thicken and become calcified, leading to a consequential narrowing of the ear canal lumen. Glandular components of the canal lining proliferate and their secretions accumulate due to failure of fluid to flow along the narrowed canal. Once these chronic changes have become established, surgical intervention is usually required.

If you require further advice on keeping your pet's ears

clean and free of discharge, please contact us. Our nurses will happily demonstrate how to clean the ears.

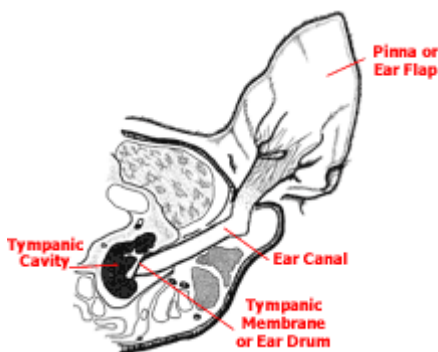


Diagram showing ear canal and tympanic membrane (ear drum)



Fireworks and your pet

We are approaching the time of year when pets are exposed to the loud bangs and flashes of fireworks. These can be very frightening experiences for pets and preparations should be made now to limit their anxiety over the coming months. Follow the five *Ds*:

Desensitisation: sound CDs with recordings of fireworks should be played well ahead of the firework season, the length and volume of which should be increased with time.

Distraction: keep your pets

indoors on the night of firework displays, draw the curtains, play loud music and provide a focus of attention that will distract your pet.

Den: provide a safe hide-away indoors that your pet can retreat into if feeling fearful.

DAP (dogs) and Feliway (cats): these diffusers emit an odourless, calming pheromone when plugged into an electric socket. They should be used in the room in which your pet spends most of its time to

create a calming effect.

Drugs: for pets that are known to have particularly bad experiences with fireworks, anxiolytic medication can be prescribed. If you feel that your pet requires this medication, an appointment with a vet should be made at the practice.

If you would like any further information on how to prepare your pet for fireworks, please contact us at the surgery on (0114) 250 7733.



DAP diffuser



New nurses

We would like to welcome two new members of staff to our practice. Pam is a qualified veterinary nurse who joins us from a vet practice in Hertfordshire. She has two dogs, and a horse. Sarah has joined us as a trainee nurse and will be working towards becoming a fully qualified veterinary nurse in the practice.

Practice discounts

- 5% cumulative annual vaccination discount.
 - 20% off Program six monthly flea injection for cats.
 - 20% chronic medication discount. This applies to a large number of medications including most arthritis and heart drugs.
 - 40% discount on Kennel Cough vaccination when given with the yearly booster.
 - Buy 3 Milbemax worming tablets and get 1 free.
- Please see our website for more details regarding all our special offers:
- www.peakvets.co.uk



A magnified image of a flea

Famous Quotes

“In a cat’s eyes, all things belong to cats” - English proverb.

“Thousands of years ago, cats were worshipped as gods. Cats have never forgotten this” - anonymous.

“A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than it loves itself” - Josh Billings.

“There is no psychologist in

the world like a puppy licking your face” - Bern Williams.

“Confront a child, a puppy, and a kitten with a sudden danger; the child will turn instinctively for assistance, the puppy will grovel in abject submission, the kitten will brace its tiny body for a frantic resistance” - H H Munro.

“If you think dogs can’t count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket, and

then giving him only two of them” - anonymous.

“Labradors are lousy watchdogs. They bark when there is a stranger about, but it is an expression of unmitigated joy at the chance to meet somebody new, not a warning” - Norman Strung.

“The problem with kittens is that they get the same look whether they see a moth or an axe murderer” - anonymous.



(0114) 2507733

Special offers on Hill's food and flea preparations

Peak Vets
36 Olivet Rd
Woodseats
Sheffield S8 8QS

Phone: 0114 2507733
Fax: 0114 2507730
E-mail: enquiries@peakvets.co.uk
Greg Firth BVetMed CertVOphthal PhD MRCVS
Steven Goodear BVSc MRCVS

Sharon Jenkinson RVN
Emma Wilder RVN
Pam Quelch RVN
Sarah Cutts (trainee nurse)

For a limited time, we have 3 special promotions:

1. 10% off all 6 packs of Frontline Combo flea medication.
2. Purchase any 15 kg bag of Hills dog food and get a free tugger rope toy.
3. £4 off a bag of Hills neutered cat food (and collect your reward card which contributes towards a free bag)

Visit the new and improved
www.peakvets.co.uk
For fact sheets, a practice
tour, special offers and
more.



Find the following words
in the word search:

Beagle

Boxer

Bulldog

Dalmation

GreatDane

Labrador

Pointer

Poodle

Pug

Retriever

Terrier

Weimeraner

D	N	B	U	L	L	D	O	G	R
A	R	E	V	E	I	R	T	E	R
L	B	T	V	P	E	C	N	N	O
M	E	G	E	X	P	A	H	A	D
A	A	N	O	R	R	U	G	D	A
T	G	B	Z	E	R	M	G	T	R
I	L	R	M	G	T	I	N	A	B
O	E	I	Q	G	T	L	E	E	A
N	E	P	O	I	N	T	E	R	L
W	Z	E	L	D	O	O	P	G	L

Kids Corner

Word Search

Would you like email reminders ?

Do you struggle to remember when you last gave your pet flea medication or a worming tablet? We now provide an email reminder service completely free of charge for all our worming and flea medications. You can set up your email reminders by contacting us at the surgery or emailing us at

reminders@peakvets.co.uk