



Pyometra in our Pets

Calling all owners with female dogs and cats

We would like to explain a condition to you called Pyometra, which may occur in those female pets that have not yet been spayed. A simple description of this is an infection of the uterus (womb). However this is not a simple infection, but an extremely serious condition that requires immediate veterinary treatment.

What is Pyometra? The womb fills with infectious pus like material. This can be due to various problems such as cysts, a build up of mucus and bacteria inside the uterus, an infection or hormonal imbalance. It can happen at any age, but is most common in middle-aged pets and those who have recently been 'in season'.

Symptoms of Pyometra If your pet shows any of these signs contact your vet **immediately**

Lethargy & Depression ❖ **Vaginal Discharge** ❖ **Vomiting**
Loss of Appetite ❖ **Excessive Drinking** ❖ **Swelling of the Abdomen**
Toxins (poison) from the pus inside the womb are released and enter the blood stream, making your pet very ill, very quickly. Sadly this can sometimes be fatal. So we would like to stress how very important it is, to bring your pet in as soon as possible.

Treatment If Pyometra is suspected, we may take blood tests and x-rays, to assist us in diagnosing the condition. Sometimes a pet is so poorly that an immediate hysterectomy operation is required. However initially, intravenous fluid therapy & antibiotics may be given.

Neutering your Pet If you are not planning to let your pet have puppies or kittens, then perhaps you should consider having them spayed/neutered. Not only will this prevent pyometra but also other related conditions, such as ovarian cysts, mammary tumours, cancer and of course unwanted pregnancies. We would of course be happy to fully discuss any concerns you may have.

Say hello to Vet Idara Umo MRCVS

who qualified from Bologna, Italy in 2002.

She became part of our team here in May 2008 but her career in the animal world began long before, in her childhood days while living on a farm. Idara also had lots of pets to look after, so it felt quite normal for her to continue caring for animals as a profession. She enjoys all the interesting aspects that each part of her job brings, especially making animals feel better when they are poorly.

During her studies, she was fortunate enough to visit Nigeria where she worked with cattle, and also gained experience amongst wildlife and zoo animals in America... in her own words "I loved it". Idara has worked with many unusual animals in the past, her favourite being the tapier, and finds it very exciting to meet animals that she has not seen before. So it's not surprising that her particular interest is in exotic animal husbandry and management. However, she has also worked with domestic breeds at the small animal charities, like the Rabbit and Ferret Rescue and the Cats Protection League.

When asked about her future goals she replied, "To gain more experience and qualifications in my field, and I am currently completing the general practitioners certificate in exotic animal medicine."

Idara lives in London with her partner and outside of surgery life she enjoys visiting markets in and around London, relaxing with a good book and of course caring for her pet, a snake called Seth.



Keep your pets away from **antifreeze spills.**

It tastes sweet, but is very poisonous, and can be fatal if swallowed.

Remember the animal world on **November 5th**, or whenever you're celebrating with **fireworks**. We may like them but our pets don't!

SURGERY HOURS

Our friendly staff are available all day for pet healthcare & advice from

Monday to Friday
8.30am - 7.00pm

Saturday 9am - 1pm

From 5 Jan 2009 we will be open 7 days a week

Weekend hours will be **Saturday** 9am - 5pm

Sunday 10am - 12noon

Consultations by Appointment

Home Visits Available

24hr Emergency Cover

01375 399033

Itches do need Scratching

All pets get the itches, as do us humans, and there's definitely no way you cannot scratch an itch! However, when scratching becomes excessive then we may need to investigate a little further, as there could be an underlying problem.



Our pets do scratch their ears quite a bit, but please just observe your pet for a while.
Are they showing discomfort with their ears?
Do they scratch just that bit too often?
Can you see a discharge from the ears?
Are they leaning their head to one side?



These symptoms could mean they are suffering from an ear mite (otodectes) infestation. Earmites are very contagious and are transmitted via close contact with an infected animal. These tiny parasites live in the ear canal and cause irritation, inflammation and a dark smelly waxy discharge. Using an instrument called an auroscope we can look way down your pet's ears to see if earmites are present. Fortunately they can be treated and soon your pet will be feeling a little less irritated. So if your pet is showing any signs of ear discomfort, pop them along to the surgery for a check-up.



Nose to Tail Care Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading it, and find the information useful. Our surgery has a wide range of facilities and services, that are beneficial to your pets and in forthcoming issues we'll be telling you all about them. Our friendly and professional team of staff are here not only to provide veterinary treatment, but also advice and encouragement for our clients to help keep their much-loved pets in the very best of health. From low cost vaccinations to a PETS passport, our team can provide expert care for your pets. So please do not hesitate to call or visit us with any concerns you may have about your pets' health.

Arnold's Ailments

"Hello Arnold" said the vet "what's the problem? Yes, I know you have teeth & also lots of them."
 "Well" Arnold urgently said down the phone
 "I was in the garden, chewing at my toy bone

And sat on our fence was that next-door cat I've told you before, he keeps saying I'm fat! Well the cheek of it, this time he said that I smell As you can imagine, it did not go down well.

So which bit of me is it you say smells nasty?"
 "Your mouth" said the cat "the odour's just ghastly."
 "But hey vet I do think that he could just be right As I noticed something very strange only last night. My owner as she hugged me, turned her head away It truly did upset me so without further delay I'll pant by you just briefly, you'll tell me for sure?"
 "Well ok" said the vet "I'll wait for you by the door.

Phaw yes, you certainly have got breath troubles It's those teeth at the back there, those big doubles Causing the bad smell & they are not gleaming All coated in yellow plaque through lack of cleaning. A dental polish & descale is all that you need And a few lessons for your owner to take heed To regularly brush your teeth at least once a week For a shiny grin, sweet breath, that's what we seek."

Colin the Cat and the Staff wish you all A Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year, and hope you'll join us for Xmas drinks Thurs 18 December at 7pm

Our Xmas Hours are:

Xmas Eve open, last consultation 6pm

Xmas Day & Boxing Day Closed

Saturday 27th open 9am - 3pm

New Years Eve open, last consult 6pm

New Years Day Closed *Usual*

24hour Emergency



NEWS in Short

Welcome to our new part-time receptionists Tracy and Terry, who will become familiar faces to visitors of the surgery. More about them in the job profile next issue.

- HUGE congratulations to Lisa and her boyfriend, now fiancé, Daniel who got engaged in February. They plan to marry in Summer 2010.
- More big news for Lisa who has successfully completed the Veterinary Care Assistant course. Thanks to our newly awarded training practice status, she has begun her Veterinary Nurse training this September.
- Jo will be a busy girl as she has been promoted to practice manager. She will still be running the practice daily nurse clinics as well as the puppy and kitten parties until Lisa has qualified.
- Emma has been busy completing her puppy training course, and has already signed up for the Think Dog! behaviour course to start this October.

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www.allanimalsvetclinic.co.uk

