

Life in the Slow Lane

Straid News

Veterinary Clinic



The heating is back on and the long winter nights have arrived. Yet on those crisp cold bright days, a good walk with your dog will blow away the cobwebs! However as your dog gets up from its cosy bed, you notice a slight stiffness and limping as they walk.

***Have they been less active than they used to be?
Perhaps even climbing the stairs has become difficult?***

These could be signs that your pet has developed arthritis. Stiff, sore joints can be so painful that it can restrict movement in our middle-aged and older pets. Sometimes, even younger dogs can be affected. Ball games in the park could end, and cats may stop climbing their favourite tree. Not a very exciting life for our pets!

***Fortunately this condition can often be treated,
to help your pet lead a better quality of life.***

If you think that they are showing some signs, then it is a good idea to have your pet fully examined by a vet. If arthritis is diagnosed, a course of treatment to ease pain and reduced inflamed joints maybe prescribed, along with a few changes to their lifestyle.

- ❖ **Guidance on weight control may be necessary** as 'extra pounds' mean 'extra strain' on those sore joints.
- ❖ **Advice on daily gentle exercise** Your vet may even recommend swimming which can benefit some pets.
- ❖ **A change in their diet**

Special foods are now available to help towards managing arthritis.

We are always here with support and advice; so if you would like further information or have any concerns regarding your pet's health, please contact us.



BAD HAIR DAY?

This is something you rarely see cats with. Their coats always seem clean and neat because they spend much of their time licking, nibbling and cleaning themselves. However they do swallow the hair that they groom from their coats. This usually passes through the cats' digestive system and is 'pooped' out. Problems may occur if this process does not take place as your cat can then develop a **hairball** in their stomach or small intestine.

You may then notice your cat 'gagging' or retching as they try to remove the hairball by vomiting. If they cannot shift it, then you should bring them in for a check up, as treatment may be necessary. Other signs can include loss of appetite, constipation and in the more serious cases a swollen abdomen. If you think that your cat has hairball trouble, please do not hesitate to contact us. This is one 'bad hair' problem that should not be left to sort itself out!



StraidVets

Surgery Hours

Our friendly support staff on reception are here to help with your requirements.

Monday to Friday
8am - 6.20pm

For consultations with our Veterinary Surgeons please call for an appointment

Saturday
11.30am - 12.30pm

Open Surgery
Appointments not required

Full 24hr 7 Days
Emergency Cover

CHECK YOUR DIARY DATES

Thinking of taking your pet abroad and need to obtain a **PETS PASSPORT?**

Please be aware that the whole process can take several months before they can travel and return to the UK. So do allow plenty of time before you book your pet a ticket.

For those well-travelled pets who already have a passport, **please remember to have your booster vaccinations.** If they lapse you will have to re-apply which could upset your travel plans. To re-enter the UK everything needs to be 'up to scratch!' We are here to help, so please call us for further details.

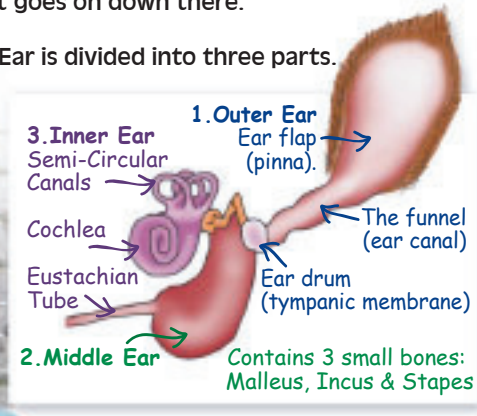
Telephone
01494 673101



EAR... EAR!

So what type of ears has your pet?
 Long, short, pointed, hairy, big, or small?
 Their ears are a sensitive organ responsible for hearing and balance. It is important to check and keep them in good condition. So let us take a short journey down the canals and tubes of your pet's ear, to see what goes on down there.

The Ear is divided into three parts.



How does your pet hear when it's dinner time?

Sounds are collected by the outer ear and directed down the ear canal causing the ear drum to vibrate. The three small bones in the middle ear then deliver the vibration to nerves in the cochlea of the inner ear, which sends messages on to the brain. The eustachian tube helps even out pressure and semi-circular canals maintain balance.

To help keep this network in good working order

- ◆ Keep ears clean
 - ◆ Trim hair around & under the flap
- Watch out for**
- ◆ Frequent scratching or rubbing ears
 - ◆ Shaking or leaning of head to one side
 - ◆ Swollen ear flap
 - ◆ Discharge
 - ◆ Discomfort when touching ear
 - ◆ Inflammation, swelling or soreness
 - ◆ Depressed/irritable
 - ◆ Nasty smell
- Allergies, ear mites, grass seeds, infections or even self-injury from scratching and head shaking can cause any of these signs.

If you think your pet has an ear problem, please call us.

Winter

Don't Forget.....

- Keep pets away from antifreeze spills**
 It tastes sweet to them but is highly toxic and can be fatal. Contact us immediately if you think you pet has swallowed antifreeze.
- Rinse winter salt & grit off paws after walks, as this can be an irritant.**
- Safeguard pets against fireworks**
- Ensure small pets living outside are warm and snug with plenty of dry bedding. Check drinking water is not frozen.**
- Keep an eye on hibernating pets**
- Continue with flea treatments**
 Those nippy creatures are here all year!
- Supervise dogs & cats near fireplaces and heaters during winter.**
- Exercise** It may be cold in winter but don't give up on the daily dog walk. Watch out for frozen ponds. Keep your pet on a lead when close by.
- Buy your pet a Christmas present..... but not chocolate!** It contains 'theobromine' which can be poisonous to dogs & cats.

Straid News in Brief

- ❖ Winter is upon us once more, bringing with it its own particular pet problems. Please do read the Winter article, as it contains great advice about avoiding some of the festive season hazards. We want all our clients **and** their pets, to have a happy, healthy Christmas and New Year.
- ❖ We hope you like our new look Clinic News.
- ❖ Please try to plan ahead for the holiday period. Order any repeat medications or special foods, and arrange for their collection well in advance of the big day, so avoiding last minute panics.
- ❖ We would like to thank those of our clients who were kind enough to take part in our survey during the summer. The results are being analysed carefully and we will be taking notice of all your comments.

Once again Merry Christmas to all!



Straid Veterinary Clinic

Dedicated to the health and well-being of the animal community

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