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Celebrate World Animal Day



This month we celebrate World Animal Day!

The mission of World Animal Day is to raise the status of animals in order to improve welfare standards around the world. It helps to mobilise animal welfare movements into a global force to make the world a better place for animals.

The aim is, through increased awareness and education, to have animals always recognised as sentient beings who deserve full regard given to their welfare. Recognised on the 4th of October, World Animal Day shares its spot with the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the Patron saint of animals.

We think it should be World Animal Day every day, so we will be celebrating in our own way throughout the month of October. To join in on the fun, we encourage you to share pictures of you and your pets with us on Facebook!



Puppy Preschool Graduates

Congratulations to the puppies who have graduated from the September Puppy Pre School Class.

Tommy
Angel
Billy
Brax
Luna
Poppy

To view all the adorable graduation photos please visit our [website](#).

What will my puppy gain from Puppy Pre School?

Your puppy will gain valuable social skills by simply interacting with other puppies and people. These skills the pup develops it will use for life. Your puppy will learn how to interact with lots of people, loud noises and children and even a visit to the vet will become fun rather than something to shake about. Your puppy will develop into a friendly, educated, confident adult dog.

How will I benefit?

Owning a dog will be enjoyable rather than a chore. Having an obedient, well socialised dog is much more pleasant and stress free. You will also gain knowledge in all areas of pet care from dental, nutrition, solving behavioural problems, toilet training and lots, lots more. Weekly freebies and samples to take home for the puppy. For more information please visit our [website](#).



Hip Hip Hooray!!

A BIG Happy Birthday to our current Healthcare members who will be celebrating in October:

Cooper - 15 years old

Alli - 15 years old

Oscar - 14 years old

Kelly - 16 years old

MBVC Healthcare plans are available for cats and dogs of all ages! If you would like some more info on our Healthcare Plans please [Contact Us](#) or read more on our [website](#).

Here you will find how the plan could help you to provide comprehensive preventative healthcare for your pet, spread the cost and take advantage of special offers for Pet Healthcare Members.

What you need to know about kidney disease



When it comes to kidney disease, the statistics can be pretty scary. As many as 1-in-3 cats, and 1-in-10 dogs may suffer from some form of the disease in their lifetime.

The chronic form of kidney disease is often referred to as 'the silent killer' as it can sneak up on your pet and signs may be subtle and hard to notice. In other cases, kidney disease can come on quickly (classified as acute kidney disease) and might occur following the kidneys being exposed to a toxin or a certain drug for example.

Signs of kidney disease to watch out for:

- increased thirst
- increased urination
- weight loss
- lethargy
- vomiting

Measuring your pet's water intake over 24 hours and bringing us a morning urine sample are two things you can do to get the investigation process started.

The good news is that there is now a blood test available that can help with early detection of the disease. The result of this blood test is always evaluated with the results of a urine test, routine kidney blood tests, and with a blood pressure check. All of this information helps determine the stage of the disease and will ascertain which treatment, if any, is necessary.

Treatment may include diet modification and medication that can help reduce protein loss through the kidneys. This can all help slow the progress of this insidious disease.

If you are worried about your pet you should phone us for advice.

Wee makes us happy!



You might laugh at us but we love wee! Just a small amount of your pet's urine provides us with valuable information about their internal health and can also help rule out diseases such as diabetes and kidney insufficiency.

After we have collected a sample of your pet's urine, we will perform a few routine tests. These will include:

USG (urine specific gravity) - this helps us to determine how well the kidneys are working by measuring how effectively they are concentrating the urine. This is especially important when we are on the hunt for kidney disease as sometimes a change in USG can be an early indication of disease. This early stage of kidney disease may not be detectable with a routine blood test.

A urine dipstick also allows us to look for the presence of blood, protein and glucose. It can also indicate if a diabetic patient is severely unwell by detecting ketones.

In some cases, it may be necessary to **examine the sediment of the urine** under a microscope to look for particular cells that may indicate disease. White blood cells and bacteria can be detected on a sediment exam as can urinary crystals, a telltale sign of other urinary tract problems.

We often need to **send urine samples to an external laboratory** to run more specific tests. This may include one to determine if there is a true bacterial infection present. The laboratory will culture the bacteria and then run tests to determine what antibiotic is required to treat the infection. Another example of a laboratory test is one to measure the level of protein that is being lost by the kidneys. This can help stage kidney disease and greatly assists in determining if medication is indicated to treat the condition.

We may ask you to collect some urine at home and whilst this can seem a little overwhelming, there are a few tricks and tips that will make it a whole lot easier. We will be able to give you the best advice for your pet based on what we are looking for, just ask us for more information.

Top tips for correct antibiotic use



It is becoming more and more evident that one of the greatest threats to human and animal health is antibiotic resistance and the emergence of 'superbugs'. As veterinarians, we are taking steps to help prevent the world from a global catastrophe where common infections and minor injuries once again kill.

As a pet owner, you can do your bit too by familiarising yourself with the following recommendations for correct antibiotic use:

1. Antibiotics are only helpful in the presence of a bacterial infection. They cannot treat viral infections and are not needed in clean wounds
2. It is sometimes necessary to identify the type of bacteria present to help us choose the most appropriate antibiotic. This involves taking samples for culture and sensitivity testing at an external laboratory
3. Never start any 'leftover' antibiotics you have before you get your pet checked with us as they may be inappropriate or unnecessary
4. Always use them as directed and finish the course, even if you think your pet is 'better'. Stopping too early can lead to the development of resistant bacteria
5. Always give the prescribed dose and give them exactly as we have directed (don't change the dose or dosing schedule as this can reduce their effectiveness)
6. Please don't ask us to prescribe antibiotics without a consultation. This is against the law!
7. A revisit may be necessary to check your pet's and extend the course of antibiotics if necessary

If you have any questions or concerns please ask us for more information.

This email contains comments of a general nature only and is not intended to be a substitute for professional veterinary advice. It should not be relied on as the basis for whether you do or don't do anything.

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