

Bursting Bulbs!



ORCHARD

VETERINARY CENTRE

news

Spring
2024

Can I take your order please?

How many of us have been in a restaurant, seen the delights on offer and could not resist choosing the unhealthiest food item off the menu? We promise ourselves that when at home we will eat nutritious and well-balanced meals to help keep us healthy. Pet rabbits have to rely on their owners to provide healthy food.

If you thought a handful of pretty coloured rabbit food and a few lettuce leaves were sufficient, then we urge you to read on! A regular balanced diet, with the correct mix of nutrients is **essential** to keep your pet healthy and happy.

Rabbit's teeth grow continuously, so they need food that will help grind and keep them at an even length. Overgrown

teeth can cause eating problems, facial cuts, abscesses, and prevent a rabbit from grooming properly.

What Food and Why

Many of the dried mixes help to provide a well-balanced diet, but some rabbits will eat only the tasty bits, and leave the essential nutrients behind. **All in one pellet mix** is better. **Hay and Grass** will provide a high source of fibre, which helps the digestive system to function correctly and grinds those teeth too. **Fruit and vegetables** can be given, but too much can cause stomach upsets.

The Ideal Bunny Menu
Starter
An 'all in one' pellet mix
Main Meal of the Day
Free access to unlimited good quality hay & grass
Dessert
Occasional fruit and vegetables

We are very happy to provide full advice on caring for and feeding your pet.



It really is great when all the pretty spring flowers begin shooting up from the earth. Just a small sign that winter is leaving us and spring has well....sprung! Cats explore the outdoors more and dogs love a good old dig. We know just how inquisitive our pets are and enjoy sniffing out weird items to play with or even eat! Many plants are harmless to our pets, but unfortunately some springtime bulbs are potentially dangerous if ingested.

Tulips can irritate your pet's mouth and gastrointestinal tract, plus **Hyacinths** and **Irises** are all poisonous to cats and dogs. Every part of these plants has toxins, but the **bulb is the most dangerous as it holds the highest concentration of toxins**.

The **daffodil** bulb is another to watch out for and the yellow flowers are also poisonous. If you have daffodils in a vase in your home, be sure your pet does not drink the water as this can cause problems too.

Signs of spring flower/bulb poisoning



- vomiting ● diarrhoea
- abdominal pain ● drooling
- lethargy ● depression
- breathing difficulties ● fits

If you see or suspect that your pet has eaten even a small amount or had contact with a potentially dangerous flower or bulb, contact a vet immediately for advice.

We offer Hydrotherapy and Physiotherapy

Orchard Vets have **qualified physiotherapists** who are dedicated to providing comprehensive rehabilitation programmes, which are tailored to the individual needs of each patient. Since moving to our state-of-the-art surgery in Oldbury, we have been able to offer **hydrotherapy sessions** to suitable patients.

Who might be suitable? Physiotherapy can have great benefits for animals suffering from mobility problems or recovering from certain types of surgery and involves sessions with our qualified therapists for manual treatment or in our hydrotherapy unit.

- Stiffness and pain caused by osteoarthritis
- Orthopaedic conditions such as hip dysplasia
- Neurological conditions or muscular weakness
- Post-op after joint surgery or fracture repair
- Overweight patients needing to reduce weight and increase their fitness
- Weakness in elderly pets or following illness

What's the difference?

Physiotherapy helps to restore normal function by building up the strength of muscles, reducing pain and increasing the range of movement. Manual physiotherapy is hands-on manipulation and massage of the affected parts. We will show you how to continue some of these actions at home to build on the beneficial effect.

Hydrotherapy is a safe, controlled and effective treatment for pets. Our hi-tech underwater treadmill allows pets to exercise whilst supported by the water's buoyancy. The water depth and speed of the treadmill are adjusted to suit the individual patient, so unlike swimming, this is the only form of hydrotherapy that correctly rehabilitates walking and trotting movements. The buoyancy allows muscles to be exercised in greater comfort and the warmth of the water encourages muscles to relax and is soothing for the patient.

Call us today to book a vet assessment.

HOURS

410 Birchfield Lane

OLDBURY

B69 1AD

0121 544 0404

Mon to Fri 8:30am - 6:30pm

Sat 8:30am - 12:30pm

Home Farm

Northfield Road

HARBORNE

B17 0TD

0121 428 1777

Mon to Fri 8:30am - 6:30pm

210 Holyhead Road

WEDNESBURY

WS10 7DH

0121 556 6890

Mon to Fri 8:30am - 6:30pm

Arnold's Ailments

Hello is that you doc?...Well I am in a state
Why you ask? I have put on some weight!
I do not know how, but I have to admit
My new spring collar now does not fit!



The red one's my favourite, I just cannot be fat
And he laughs at me, that next door cat!
Doc, I need you to tell me if I am too stout
I'll be down in a jiffy, you can check me out



"I can see" said the vet "you've been too greedy
Pleading with your mum when you're not really needy
For more food, extra goodies, too tired for a walkie
You'd rather lay around indoors getting porky"
Diabetes, heart troubles are less likely to begin
If you can just stay healthy, lively and thin
It also helps prevent arthritis in your knees
So you can run and play with much more ease
We'll help you lose those pounds off your podge
Just be determined to leave out the stodge
Take more exercise and follow a new diet plan
You'll soon wear that red collar whenever you can!

Stranger Things

When we think of our cats eating, tasty nutritious food comes to mind, but there are some felines out there that head for the strangest of items to eat and it's not food!

Pica is a condition where cats eat unusual items such as wool, rubber bands, tissues, paper, fabrics, leather.... in fact there was one cat who was partial to eating the fingers of rubber gloves and munching on the dish cloth! The owner would regularly find holes in the cloth and fingers missing from the glove to the point where both items had to be stored under the sink. At first it may seem comical as all pets do eat weird things at times, but when the need to eat these items becomes a regular occurrence, then it's time to get your kitty checked out! Obviously there are the potentially harmful internal affects of eating non-food items, but the reason **why** they are displaying this behaviour has to be investigated. The underlying cause needs to be found.

Is your pet in pain? Developed a physical problem?
Could be behavioural? Is he or she stressed or bored?
Has nutritional deficiencies?



Dinner Time



Dinner is probably the highlight of your pet's day, but are you feeding your furry friend the correct diet?

So Many to Choose Yes, it can all be rather confusing! Is this one right for my dog? Will my cat like the jelly? Dry or wet food? Carbs, minerals, proteins, fats, vitamins.....help!

The most important point is to ensure your pet is fed a balanced diet that suits their age, breed, size and any medical conditions.

This can help keep your pet active, healthy and maintain a correct weight.

What do we mean by a balanced diet?

This is a correct mix of **nutrients** in the food to suit a pet's individual requirements.

What is a nutrient? It is an element in food that is of good value in the diet. **Carbohydrates** are great for energy but for those pets prone to weight gain, too much may prove a problem. **Foods lower in magnesium** may benefit cats with urinary problems, and if your dog suffers from an **allergy condition**, after a thorough examination, then a dietary change could be the answer. Weight loss, diarrhoea, low energy levels and obesity are just a few signs that may indicate your pet's diet is incorrect, however there are other conditions that can display these signs, so it is always best for your pet to have a check-up.

Treats We all like giving those to our pets, and providing there are no medical conditions prohibiting treats from their diet, it is usually okay, **BUT** these should always be of **good quality** and included as part of their daily quantity of food. There are many shops and supermarkets selling an array of treats from bones to chews. Some may be imported from abroad. Please be very careful with your choice, as there have been reports of pets becoming seriously ill after eating certain treats, and sadly some cases have been fatal.

Prescription diets are available for many types of medical conditions. For more information give our team a call so they can help you 'balance' your pet's diet.

Eating non-food items may cause a blockage.

If you notice any of the signs below please contact us **immediately**.

- **vomiting**
- **loss of appetite for regular food**
- **constipation**
- **lethargy**
- **coughing or retching**

Book an Appointment

If your cat is displaying Pica, then it is time to bring he or she along to the surgery so we can discuss this issue. We can perform a full examination and do some tests to rule out any medical issue that could be causing Pica. If all seems okay on the physical side, then we can investigate their lifestyle and history. This may help shed some light on the consumption of these strange items. Both vet and owner will need to pop their detective hats on for a while to help solve the underlying cause!