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COMPANION ANIMAL NEWSLETTER— JULY 2021

CAT BITE ABSCESS!

In practice we see a lot of cats that have been 'in the wars' and present with cat bite injuries. Cats have a lot of nasty bacteria in their mouths. If our feline friends get themselves embroiled in a scuffle and are bitten then the bacteria on the teeth is injected under the skin. This can then develop into an abscess. Cats are most often bitten on the head, limbs and tail.

Sometimes it is obvious our cat has been bitten, we may have heard fighting and then spot a wound or a limp. However, sometimes injuries are not obvious. An initial small puncture wound can heal over very quickly, trapping the bacteria inside with nothing of concern to see from the outside. This trapped bacteria breeds infection and often results in a pus-filled abscess. This infection can make the localised area feel warm to the touch and painful. The animal may develop a temperature, be more lethargic and off their food. The abscess may even burst out discharging smelly pus.



If you notice any symptoms we are here to help! It is important to treat wounds sooner rather than later so if you are at all suspicious please call the practice to book an appointment with one of our vets. If you have an open wound this can be bathed at home with salt water to clean before attending the surgery, but it is important not to give any medication without veterinary consultation. Treatment can be as simple as a course of antibiotics, pain relief and of course lots of TLC at home. However, some abscesses may need to be lanced to drain the pus and then thoroughly flushed to remove the bacteria. The procedure would be likely to be carried out under sedation, with the cat being admitted to the surgery for the day.

It is important to remember, as well as abscesses, cats (especially if unvaccinated) are prone to catching other diseases. We can blood sample if necessary for some diseases which can be transmitted via a cat bite such as Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), or Feline Leukaemia virus (FeLV).



If your cat goes outdoors, or mixes with others who do, then remember to speak to our vets about vaccination to keep them protected. The vaccination is also an opportunity for an annual MOT! Our vets always also carry out a thorough health check as part of the vaccination consultation.

MAKING TRIPS TO THE VETS LESS STRESSFUL

It is important when bringing a pet for a visit to the vets that it does not impact on them in a negative way. It may be, if they don't enjoy the trip, that this affects them for future visits, so making everything positive from the drive to the vets and back home after the consultation is very important.

A lot of dogs commute to the practice in crates, so making sure they find this environment safe and stress free is paramount to ensuring a positive experience on the drive. Incorporating crate training into your training routine at home from a young age will hopefully make this a lot easier so that your dog feels safe and happy in both the home crate and in the car. Placing your dogs' favourite toys and blankets in the crate should also help this experience and using a lot of praise before, during and after travel also reinforces the trip as a positive experience. It is also a good idea to use positive reinforcement by taking your dog to a pleasant place to go on a walk or play at the end of the journey, making sure that each trip in the car does not always end in a trip to the vets or grooming salon.

Cats also need to feel safe in the environment they are travelling in. Most cats will associate the cat carrier with a trip to the vets and this can cause stress leading to a negative experience during travel. A tip for making this less stressful is not putting the cat box away when you are at home and having it as a safe space, for example placing it in a corner with a blanket over it may help your cat feel more comfortable and may also make it much easier to get them into the carrier, incorporating play or food may also help.

When you arrive at the practice it is important to ensure that stress is then not built up again, so positive feedback is a good way of preventing this, using treats and playing in the car while you wait for your consultation will help improve your pet's experience.

Use of Natural Stress Relievers

Here at Dalehead we have an array of natural products that can be used in order to help with your pet's stress about travelling in the car or trips to the vets. Our team of nurses are able to advise on stress related issues and recommend products which may help.

Usually the use of two products at a time is the most effective way. For example the use of a DAP or natural remedy spray on blankets in the car and a tablet which can be sprinkled onto the food before travelling to take the edge off. These products will not sedate your pet but work naturally against stress.

The use of these products prepares your pet for their journey and we have had good feedback from clients who already use them. We stock a variety of these products including:



FELIWAY AND ADAPTIL SPRAYS
PHEROMONE SPRAYS



PET REMEDY SPRAY
NATURAL INGREDIENT SPRAY



NUTRACALM SPRINKLE CAPSULES
NATURAL CALMING



Check out our website www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk for more information about caring for your pet, special offers, vet and staff profiles and much more!

