

Relocating Cats

With the change in seasons upon us a lot of people will be relocating to new jobs and new houses. To your cat this can often be a nightmare.

Cats are very territorial animals and often have a very hard time accepting a new home. Often cats will try and get back to what they view as their own home and this can end up in them wandering off and getting lost.

There are a number of things you can do to ensure your cat's relocation is kept as stress free as possible.

- > Microchip your cat and put a collar on them prior to the move.
- > Buy a good sturdy travel cage for your cat and have them sleep in it for a few weeks prior to the move.
- > If possible do not introduce your cat to the new house until it is mostly set up and all removal staff and builders etc. have left.
- > On arrival at the new house give your cat a "safe room" with the travel case in it and restrict their movement to only this room. You can slowly increase the area in which it can roam over the next few weeks. Depending on your cats comfort level you can let them outside after 2-3 weeks.
- > When you first let them outside ensure they are not recently fed, if they are hungry they are less likely to roam too far from where they know their food is.
- > Feed your cat its favorite meal at your new house.
- > Give your cat plenty of attention and affection.
- > For high stress cats talk to your vet about anti-anxiety medications.
- > Feliway is a very good over the counter medication that reduces stress.



Dental Disease

As vets we are not big fans of examining pets with stinky breath and we are pretty sure that you as pet owners hate it just as much, if not more than we do. But what causes this nasty smelling breath and what can be done to allow care free cuddles with your pets once again??

Periodontal or dental disease is the most common cause of stinky breath in your pets. This is due to a buildup of tartar on the teeth. Because the tartar is not part of the normal body it causes inflammation and irritation of the surrounding gums. The tartar then begins to push the gums away from the tooth leading to root exposure. As a result teeth start to loosen in their sockets and this allows infection to enter.

So if your pet has got this issue what can we do about it? Antibiotic treatment will temporarily suppress the infection but if the tartar is left on the tooth it will only cause a repeat infection.

We need to remove the tartar to truly treat the disease. This will involve a full anaesthetic to ensure we can thoroughly clean and polish your pet's teeth. If your pet is getting older then we may want to take a blood test to make sure your pet is going to handle the anaesthetic.

Once a dental has been performed feeding your pet a specialised dental diet or dental treats will help to keep the teeth clean. There are also toothbrushes available specifically for your pet!

Handle every stressful situation like a dog.



If you can't eat it or play with it,

just pee on it and walk away.

Case of the Month: Livewire Lilly

Lilly is a young healthy puppy. One day her owners found that Lilly had a very puffy face and a wee injury present on her nose. She did not seem happy in herself and just wanted to lie in her kennel all morning. She did not eat her breakfast. This was very concerning for her owners so lucky Lilly was brought in to see us at the clinic.



On clinical exam Lilly was alert and active. She did not appear dehydrated and there were no abnormal findings on examination of her heart, lungs or stomach. Her face however was another story.

The left side of her nose was red and inflamed and the right side of her face was very puffy and swollen. She did not like us trying to have a look inside her mouth, after we did we soon realised why! Poor Lilly's tongue and upper jaw had a nasty burn on it that had caused the lining of her mouth to ulcerate.

We gave Lilly some anti-inflammatories and antibiotics and sent her home with instruction to come back in and see us in a few days time as it was very likely that the burnt skin in her mouth would die. This would mean Lilly would likely need surgery to remove this skin.

When she came back in Lilly was happy in herself again, she was eating and drinking normally. However, it was obvious that Lilly was going to need surgery to clean up the skin inside her mouth; her nose looked a bit problematic also but unfortunately there was not much to be done there, we just had to wait and see. Surgery was scheduled for the next week.

When she came in for her surgery poor Lilly did not smell very pleasant at all. She was put under an anaesthetic and the dead tissue removed from the inside of her lip, her gums and her tongue. Her teeth were checked and all appeared to be nicely intact. Lilly was given some more antibiotics and anti-inflammatories and instructed to come in for a recheck a week later.

When she came in again for her recheck Lilly was a different dog. She was back to her normal naughty self at home and her wounds were healing wonderfully. Even her nose looked to be healing well although it would never look the same again. She was advised to come and see us again a few more times and each time she was looking better than the one before. Her teeth appeared to be OK to be left in however we will need to have a closer look at these when she comes in to be spayed in a few months' time to be sure.

As soon as it was suspected that Lilly had gained her injuries as a result of chewing on an electrical wire her owners went through the house with a fine toothed comb to figure out where she could have gotten access to wires. They remembered hearing a weird noise come from under the house the night before so got someone in to have a look. Sure enough there was one there that had been chewed in half! This was all repaired and the hole through which Lilly gained access to the wires was fixed up by a builder to ensure this did not happen again. Lilly is a very lucky dog! It is so important to ensure this kind of incident is avoided, as there is every chance that your dog will not have 9 lives as Lilly did.

Did you know.....

- ◇ Cats have no collarbone, which is one reason they are so flexible.
- ◇ A happy guinea pig may jump straight up and down. This movement is called "popcorning".
- ◇ Fleas can jump 350 times their body length.
- ◇ The only mammal capable of flight is the bat.
- ◇ Slugs have 4 noses.
- ◇ Many hamsters only blink one eye at a time.
- ◇ To survive, a bird must eat at least half its own weight in food each day.
- ◇ The shell of a turtle is made up of 60 different bones all connected together.

