



Happy Christmas

We would like to take this opportunity to offer all our fluffy, and human friends a very merry christmas and a happy new year.

Biting flies and ants

Most of you will be aware of the problems cause by fleas, ticks and intestinal worms in our pets.

What many people are less aware of are the problems caused by biting flies and ants.

Dogs or cats allergic to fleas can also react to ant bites. Large numbers of ant bites can also lead to allergic reactions and even death: particularly if the larger and more aggressive ant species are involved.

Biting flies can contribute to allergic skin disease in animals prone to allergies.

In particular they can cause severe reactions around the nose and ear tips. Ask us for some simple tips on decreasing the damage caused by biting flies and ants.



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If your neighbour's dog is barking excessively, go and speak to them and let them know when and where it occurs. They may not be aware of it

If you think your dog is barking too much, ask the neighbours when it occurs and for how long. Not only can it help us determine the cause of the problem, it lets your neighbours know you are trying to deal with it!

Barking Madly

Barking dogs are a common cause of concern in neighbourhoods and a common cause of complaints to councils.

So what determines problem barking? Barking is a normal behaviour for dogs, and not a disease. Barking may however be inappropriate and cause concern.

For example a farm dog who barks for 6 hours a day may not upset anybody. If the same dog moves in to a group of units he may very easily upset 20 people!

Whilst barking is a normal behaviour, excessive barking may indicate a disease. Drinking water is normal. Drinking excessive water may mean your pet has diabetes.

The first step in addressing a barking problem is to determine when and why your dog is barking.

Why do dogs bark excessively?

Some common causes of undue barking are:

- Boredom
- Separation anxiety
- Its fun, so why stop?
- Dogs, cats, and children on adjacent properties can precipitate barking behaviour in your pet

What can you do?

Firstly and most importantly you must determine the cause of the barking. Please contact us so that we can ascertain why the behaviour is occurring. In future news letters we will look at ways of managing problem barking.



Try to make scratching posts attractive. Place them in a convenient location for your cat. Add catnip or other treats to the post. Or add moving or reflective objects to attract your pet.

Furniture Assault

These days many cats happily spend all their time indoors. This has significant advantages in avoiding cat fights, motor vehicle accidents, snake bites and the like.

One disadvantage however is that cats no longer have trees to sharpen their claws on. In the absence of these natural surfaces your furniture can come in for a hammering. Indoor cats often choose soft furniture, door frames, or wall paper as a tool to sharpen nails.

Avoiding boredom for your cat can diminish this behaviour. Interactive toys that initiate hunting behaviour are great for cats.

As well as a plethora of commercial toys available, things cats can explore such as a new cardboard box can provide hours of fun.

Simple toys such as fluffy mice or balls or aluminium foil hung in a draughty area so they blow in the breeze, can also be popular.

Other ways of decreasing scratching

- Nail clipping. Most cats can be taught to have their nails clipped with a little patience, or we can do it for you.
- Glue on nail covers, such as 'soft paws. These are nail protectors glued over the nails every 6-8 weeks
- Indoor scratching posts.
- Furniture protectors. Pinning cling film over affected areas of furniture can deter some cats from scratching





How do sea mammals sleep?

- Breathing is voluntary in sea mammals so that they don't accidentally breathe whilst sleeping.
- In fact they very rarely drown, but will suffocate if they are prevented from reaching the surface (in other words they almost never breathe under water).
- Dolphins can sleep with each half of their brain separately. They sleep with the left side of their brain (with their right eye open), for about half an hour, then swap.
- Young whales and dolphins actually rest, eat and sleep while their mother swims, towing them along in her slipstream. This is called echelon swimming.
- Dolphins sometimes sleep swimming next to an awake animal.
- They can also float on the surface for 1-2 hours asleep. This is called 'logging'.
- Whales will sometimes drop to the ocean floor to sleep.
- Newborn whales must remain in motion for the first few weeks of life, as they don't have enough blubber to float.

Why do they breathe less often than people?

- Sea mammals have proportionally larger lungs than land mammals.
- Oxygen is used only for vital organs such as heart, brain and swimming muscles whilst under water.
- Sea mammals can tolerate much higher levels of carbon dioxide in their blood than other mammals.

Horses can only breathe through their nose.

Amphibians use both lungs and skin to breathe

The world record for breath holding in humans is 20 minutes

The free-diving world record for humans is a depth of over 250m