

# Is your Pet Diabetic?



Our pets' bodies and organs function in a very similar way to our own. Each part has its job to perform in helping to keep us fit and healthy. Sometimes though there is a hiccup in the system and unless dealt with, it can cause problems.

Like humans, animals can also suffer from the condition of diabetes. This is when the body has difficulty in regulating blood sugar levels. A hormone called insulin is in charge of moving sugar into the body cells and is produced in the pancreas.

**Causes** If the pancreas becomes damaged possibly from an infection, this can affect the production of insulin. Overweight pets may also develop diabetes, as the pancreas has to work overtime to produce insulin. With an incorrect production of insulin, this then leads to a high level of sugar building up in the bloodstream.

**Treatment** Daily treatment is available for diabetes, and a change of diet may also be necessary. Your pet will need to visit us now and again so we can check their sugar and insulin levels. Diabetes in your pet is a manageable condition and we are here with all the help that you may require. Once regular treatment is in place, your pet can lead quite a normal life again.

**For further information please call us at the surgery.**

## Diabetic signs to watch out for in your dog or cat

- ❖ Increase in water drinking
- ❖ Urinating frequently
- ❖ Weight loss, despite increased appetite
- ❖ Lethargy

**Should you notice any of the above in your pet, then bring them in for a check-up as soon as possible as if left untreated, it can lead to very serious problems. If we suspect diabetes, tests can be done to confirm the condition.**



## Nose to Tail Care *Hello to all pets and their owners and happy reading!*

We hope you enjoy this our first edition of the Hollybank Newsletter, where you will find pet healthcare articles, advice, news and surgery information. Through these newsletters, we aim to keep you informed of current issues and routine care that will benefit the well-being of your pets.

Here at Hollybank Veterinary Centre our friendly, and dedicated team of staff provide not only high quality veterinary care for animals but also advice and encouragement for our clients to help keep those much-loved pets in the very best of health. Hollybank was completely renovated and extended prior to our opening in March 2009, to provide excellent facilities for treating your pets - three consult rooms - two sterile operating theatres - extensive anaesthetic monitoring - dental suite - isolation ward - separate dog and cat wards. Our in-house laboratory, x-ray, ultrasound and video-endoscopy suite

enable us to identify and treat your pets' symptoms quickly and accurately. So from clipping your guinea pig's nails to major surgery on your dog, you can feel confident that your pet is in good hands. You can even pop along to our Nurse Clinics for advice on petcare or Puppy Parties to help with the socialising of your new arrival.

*So from all of us at Hollybank - we look forward to welcoming you and your pets into the world of animal care.*

## Surgery Hours

*Our friendly support staff are available all day for pet healthcare and advice.*

Monday, Wednesday & Friday  
**8.30am - 6.30pm**  
Tuesday & Thursday  
**9.30am - 7.30pm**  
Saturday **9am - 12 noon**

*Consultations with the vets & nurses are by appointment only. Please call to arrange a suitable time.*

To ensure continuity of first class veterinary care for your pets we are proud to offer **24hr Emergency Service** here at the surgery and with your usual vets.

**Call day or night**

**01606 880 890**



*Nurse Rachel McDermott*

*Vet Helen McCrorie*

*Principal Vet Richard Hewitt*

*Head Nurse Helen Molyneux*

[www.hollybankvets.co.uk](http://www.hollybankvets.co.uk)

Stacey

Nessa



## Healthy Guinea Pigs...Happy Pets!

These amazing little creatures originate from South America and are one of the oldest domestic animals dating back to 1000-500BC. When born, they are fully developed and can run around almost immediately.

Guinea pigs are very friendly and sociable creatures and with this in mind we'd like to say a warm welcome to **the newest members of the Hollybank team... Stacey & Nessa!**

We have many children visiting the surgery, so we thought it would be ideal to adopt a pet in order to teach the importance of good animal care and the responsibility that comes with pet ownership. We soon found this tiny pair waiting to be adopted at a local rescue centre. Like all pets, they will need regular check-ups as guinea pigs' teeth and nails grow continuously and may require clipping. Mites and fungal infections are sometimes a problem, so we'll be examining their coats and skin too.

**Guinea Pigs Home** Dutton & Peters the builders who transformed Hollybank, kindly built a hutch and outdoor run for our new friends who are already settling in! Always provide plenty of bedding for your guinea pig. Give protection from the sun as they can suffer from heatstroke and ensure they are warm, dry and snug during winter.

**A correct diet is very important** to the health of all small animals, and we work closely with 'Burgess Pet Care' manufacturers of the 'Excel' food range who will provide Stacey and Nessa's food. In addition to this good quality dried pellet food, which helps keep teeth in shape & prevent selective eating, they enjoy dandelions, grass, carrots, cabbage tomatoes, roots, spinach apple and pear. Of course, a regular supply of hay and clean fresh drinking water too.

Although a little timid at first, we are sure our pets will be very happy in their new home. If you would like more information on caring for your guinea pig please contact the surgery or better still, pop in for a chat and say 'hello' to Stacey & Nessa.

**Warnings!** Always carefully identify any plants **before** feeding them to your pet, as not all are suitable, and may cause illness. Sadly in some cases it can be fatal. If in doubt...**don't let them eat it!** Place outside runs away from potentially hazardous plants.

**Do not feed grass clippings to guinea pigs** - they ferment in the stomach and can cause bloat, an often-fatal condition.



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**ANIMALS** Our pets, make us laugh and cry. For some humans they are eyes, ears and daily helpers. They give love, cuddles, and most of all are our friends.

**AGING** With regular health checks, we can help your pet adjust to 'the aging process' so they enjoy a better quality of life in their senior years.

**BOOSTERS** Regular vaccination protection against infectious diseases, plays an important part in helping to keep your pets healthy, and your PETS passport valid.

**BAD BREATH** A sign that your pet could have dental problems! Pop into the surgery where we can advise you on regular dental care to help keep their breath a little more fragrant!

**that old rhyme... but do consider how fireworks affect our pets,** which are not only heard banging and screeching around Bonfire Night, but also on New Years Eve and other celebratory events. Sadly, this is particularly distressing for some pets. Owners can be unaware of the extent of their pet's phobia, as cats and dogs can associate fireworks with other loud noises and may also become fearful of thunder, gunshots and traffic. Help make your pet feel more relaxed, comfortable and secure by following our

### Five top tips for Fireworks

- 1. Create a safe 'haven'** for your pet. A quiet place, away from windows. Cover all sides except one. Place toys, food and water there. Ensure they can easily get in and out.
- 2. Keep pets indoors** It protects cats from misuse of fireworks and running away. Exercising dogs outside during firework time can be distressing and they could bolt especially if off the lead.
- 3.** This is a hard one - **do not comfort your pet**, as it can reinforce their worry. Allowing them the 'haven' is much better. **Never** punish or scold a fearful pet. Playing a quiet game can encourage confidence
- 4. Use pheromone therapy** At the surgery we have Plug-in diffusers DAP (dogs) and Feliway (cats). Also available - collars, sprays and food supplements that can help calm pets too.
- 5. Microchip your pet** Lost microchipped pets are much easier to reunite with owner.



We are here with plenty of help for nervous pets and advice for owners. Consider trying the Sounds Scary CD, to help desensitise your dog to fireworks and loud noises, but for more information on this, please do not hesitate to contact us, and we can discuss an appropriate therapy for your pet.