

Wide-eyed and Amazingly cute



Spring 2015

A kitten can really pull at the heart strings, and before you know it that ball of fluff is curled up on your lap at home! Having a new pet is exciting and fun. He or she will look to you for a lifetime of love, food, security and care. With some cats reaching 15-20 years old, be sure this commitment will suit your lifestyle **before** embarking on cat ownership.

Is your home suited to a cat?

Consider if your new addition is to be an indoor or outdoor cat. If outdoor, are you near main or busy roads? Will having a cat indoors 24/7 suit you? A litter tray will be required, so be prepared for regular cleaning out of their poo and wee. Indoor and outdoor felines, can also be quite mischievous at times. It has been known for cats to knock over vases of flowers, climb the curtains and claw the furniture!

Will your lifestyle accommodate a pet?

All pets like company, so consider how much time you can devote to your pet. Are you out all day? Do you have a large family to care for? A kitten is extra and at times quite hard work, and can demand your attention day or night! If you go away, who will care for your cat, and what cost would this entail?

Can your budget suit a pet?

Quality food, vaccinations, flea and worm treatments will all help to keep your pet healthy. So you and your pet have the best possible start, we offer packages to spread the cost of basic healthcare, and provide free nurse clinics to help and advise. Consider insurance for your pet, so in the event of accident or sudden illness the cost of treatment is covered. There are many different policies, so ensure you know exactly what is included in the cover.

So you've decided YES! Now, where will you get your kitten?

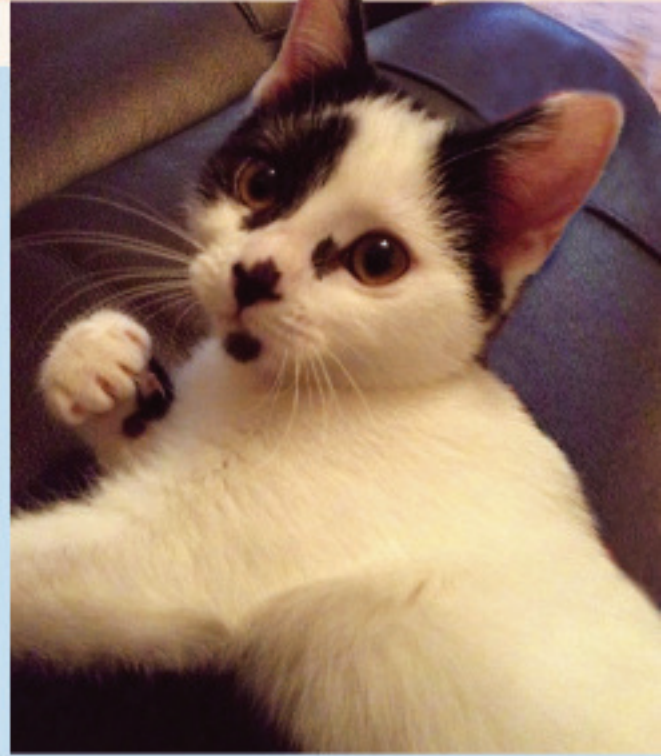
Breeders and rescue or rehoming centres are a good place to start. Most of these places are reputable, but sadly there are also some dishonest people out there, so beware!

- ✓ The premises should be clean, calm and warm, as should the kittens.
- ✓ You should be able to see their Mum too. If not, be very wary, and ask where Mum is!
- ✓ At the centres, if possible obtain some background history of the kitten.

NEVER buy a kitten from the back of a van, in the street, boot fairs or somewhere with numerous litters of kittens.

A pet can give great companionship and pleasure, but when hasty decisions are made under pressure from family or friends, this can sadly result in a pet leading a lonely and unloved life, or needing to be rehomed.

AVENUE NEWS



We have plenty of information to help you make the right choice, and we are more than happy to discuss in detail about having a new pet. A good start for you both, is the way forward to successful pet ownership.

CLINIC HOURS

Our friendly staff are available for pet healthcare and advice

Monday to Friday
8.30am to 7.00pm

Saturday
8.30 - 1.00pm

Consultations by appointment

01923 894274

24 Hour 7 day
Emergency Service



www.avenuesvet.co.uk

After the long dark winter.....comes Spring

Our furry rabbit companions, will probably be ready to do the 'binky' when those first warm rays of sunshine arrive! That is of course if you are providing the full gold standard life for your pet rabbits. Bunnies are very social creatures and require company. One pet rabbit kept in a cramped cold hutch in the corner of the garden, will be a very unhappy pet indeed, as in the wild they always live with other rabbits. So a neutered male and female pair live well together as pets.



Inquisitive, active and intelligent; rabbits need to express their natural behaviour.

Provide an earth pit....rabbits love to dig! Tree stumps, twigs and suitable toys for playtime. Scatter pellets in the hay and fill boxes or cardboard tubes to encourage 'foraging for food'.

Their housing needs detailed attention too.

This should be raised, secure and of adequate size for the number of rabbits. Provide hiding places like cardboard boxes, large tubes. Platforms and separate areas for eating, sleeping and toileting are also required.

Indoor and outdoor areas must allow them to easily stand up on their hind legs.

Lie fully outstretched.

Make at least 3 consecutive hops.

Turn around unhindered.

Visit www.rabbitwelfare.co.uk for full information on housing and run size.

We have plenty of advice here too, so do pop in for a chatand for those of you wondering what 'the binky' is?.....it's a jumping and twisting action that rabbits do when happy. If you see your bunnies doing this, you know you've got it right!

It's in the Blood

Some people just faint at the tiniest speck of blood, while others are fascinated by it! This amazing and busy river of red liquid, flows through your pets' bodies, distributing oxygen and nutrients, fighting infections and collecting waste. Blood also carries a wealth of information about your pet, so if we suggest a blood test, do not be alarmed as it will help us determine what is wrong or what course of action we should take to help improve their health.

The process is almost the same as for humans, and in general is quick and simple. For our furry pets though, we shave a small area of their hair, then a fine needle is inserted into a vein from where the blood is taken. A nurse will hold and reassure your pet during the process. Just a small amount can tell us, for example, if your pet is anaemic, has thyroid problems or carries the feline leukaemia virus.



What is that dog doing?

When you see a dog in a sitting position and scooting along the ground, you may think it's a special trick, but this is no trick. It is trying to ease major discomfort.....



...and this is why!

A dog has anal glands either side of the anus. These produce a yellow coloured fluid, which is normally released when your dog poos, but if these glands do not empty as they should, the dog will experience pain, irritation and discomfort. In an attempt to release the fluid and ease the pain, this dog will 'scoot' its bottom along the ground.

If you notice your own dog.....

Excessively nibbling/licking under the tail area and anus

Scooting or dragging their rear end

Swellings or inflammation around the anus area or sitting lopsided

...please bring them in for a check-up.

If left untreated, your dog will be suffering, and the glands could become infected. In general, all that is required is for the vet to gently express the glands to clear the build up of fluid, which can be done at a routine consultation. In some cases antibiotics or anti-inflammatory medication may be prescribed. For the more chronic cases, removal of the anal glands is sometimes necessary.

Any questions?

Please do contact us.

If your pet requires surgery

We may suggest a pre-anaesthetic blood test, which is beneficial to all animals about to undergo anaesthesia, in particular older animals. Results will help reveal any problems that could increase the potential risk of the anaesthetic, like a weak liver and kidney function or diabetes. It will also assist the vet in deciding on a suitable anaesthetic for your pet according to their health and age.

Identify - Diagnose - Treat

Some tests we can perform in-house, using our advanced diagnostic equipment to provide rapid results. Samples that require more detailed analysis, are sent to outside laboratories via a daily collection courier. Depending on the type of test, results are usually returned to us within a few days.

Blood Screening Profile Here at our surgery we can do a full profile of your pet's blood, to help detect signs of disease and organ dysfunction. Early identification of a problem can help make it quicker and easier to treat the condition, which improves the chances of a happy outcome. If you are interested in a blood screening profile for your pet, please contact us for further information.




**AVENUES
VETERINARY CLINIC**
*Caring for your pets....
as if they are our own*
www.avenuesvet.co.uk

22 Garston Lane
Wafford
Herts WD25 9QJ
01923 894274

