

## Special Offer Spot-on Cat wormer

Is your cat difficult to worm with a tablet? Have you tried a spot on wormer? Cat worming using a Spot-on is easy because the solution is applied directly onto the cat's skin in a single application. The active ingredients travel to the gut, where intestinal worms are found. Spot on wormers kill every type of intestinal worm commonly found in UK cats.

**Buy 3 pipettes and get the 4th one FREE. Offer only available between 30.9.09 and 30.11.09.**

If you would like our monthly newsletter emailed to you each month then contact us at enquiries@midforestvets.co.uk.



## Nurse Clinics

Our qualified and experienced Veterinary Nurses would like to remind you of the **FREE** nurse clinics on offer at both our Totton and Lyndhurst surgeries.

The clinics include:-

- ♣ New puppy advice (can be pre-vaccination) to discuss diet/worming/socialisation and training etc.
- ♣ Kitten club (Bev at Totton surgery)
- ♣ Bereavement counselling—if you have lost a much loved pet and would like to talk to someone who understands what you are going through. (Bev at Totton surgery)

- ♣ 'Pre' new pet consultation—if you are thinking of becoming a new pet owner, whether it be a dog or cat, rabbit or hamster, we can offer help and advice on finding the most suitable type of pet for your situation and lifestyle.
- ♣ Four and six month puppy checks—to help you monitor the progress of your new puppy
- ♣ Dental check/advice on dental hygiene—does your pet have bad breath?! (87% of dogs and 70% of cats over the age of three are affected by tooth and gum disease)
- ♣ Diet and weight management advice—obesity is on the increase in our pets and causes the same major health problems for them as for humans ..... have you checked your pets weight recently?!
- ♣ Senior citizen health advice
- ♣ Administering worming tablets (there is a charge for the wormer)
- ♣ Tick removal
- ♣ Firework/thunderstorm phobia advice
- ♣ Arthritis clinic

The nurses can also microchip pets and clip nails. There is a charge for these services. If you would like to make an appointment for one of these clinics, ring Totton surgery 02380 660400 or Lyndhurst surgery 02380 282358.

**D**o you have trouble remembering when your pets' worm pill is due or when you should be giving the next flea and tick treatment. **If so we can help you.** You can sign up for our free text messaging service. Let us have your name, address and mobile number and how often you would like a reminder and we will send you a text message letting you know when the treatment is due. If you would like further details or would like to sign up to the text messaging service, then contact reception or ring 023 8028 2358/023 8066 0400.

# Diabetes Mellitus

## What is diabetes mellitus?

Diabetes mellitus occurs when the pancreas doesn't produce enough insulin. Insulin is required for the body to efficiently use sugars, fats and proteins.

Diabetes most commonly occurs in middle age to older dogs and cats, but occasionally occurs in young animals. When diabetes occurs in young animals, it is often genetic and may occur in related animals. Diabetes mellitus occurs more commonly in female dogs and in male cats.

## What can predispose my pet to diabetes?

Certain conditions predispose a dog or cat to developing diabetes. Animals that are overweight or those with inflammation of the pancreas are predisposed to developing diabetes. Some drugs can interfere with insulin, leading to diabetes.

## What are the effects on the body of insufficient insulin?

The body needs insulin to use sugar, fat and protein from the diet for energy. Without insulin, sugar accumulates in the blood and spills into the urine. Sugar in the urine causes the pet to **pass large amounts of urine and to drink lots of water**. Levels of sugar in the brain control appetite. Without insulin, the brain becomes sugar deprived and the animal is **constantly hungry**, yet they may **lose weight** due to improper use of nutrients from the diet. Untreated diabetic pets are more likely to develop infections and commonly get **bladder, kidney, or skin infections**.

Diabetic dogs, and rarely cats, can develop **cataracts** in the eyes. Cataracts are caused by the accumulation of water in the lens and can lead to blindness. Fat accumulates in the liver of animals with diabetes. Less common signs of diabetes are weakness or abnormal gait due to nerve or muscle dysfunction. There are two major forms of diabetes in the dog and cat: 1) uncomplicated diabetes and 2) diabetes with ketoacidosis. Pets with uncomplicated diabetes

may have the signs just described but are not extremely ill. Diabetic pets with ketoacidosis are very ill and may be **vomiting** and **depressed**.

## How can my vet diagnose diabetes in my pet?

The diagnosis of diabetes is made by finding a large increase in blood sugar and a large amount of sugar in the urine. Animals, especially cats, stressed by having a blood sample drawn, can have a temporary increase in blood sugar, but there is no sugar in the urine. A blood screen of other organs is obtained to look for changes in the liver, kidney and pancreas. A urine sample may be cultured to look for infection of the kidneys or bladder. Diabetic patients with ketoacidosis may have an elevation of waste products that are normally removed by the kidneys.

## Can diabetes be treated?

Yes but the treatment is different for patients with uncomplicated diabetes and those with ketoacidosis. Ketoacidotic diabetics are treated with intravenous fluids and rapid acting insulin. This treatment is continued until the pet is no longer vomiting and is eating, then the treatment is the same as for uncomplicated diabetes. Diabetes is managed long term by the use of insulin once or twice a day. Some diabetic cats can be treated with oral medications instead of insulin injections, but the oral medications are rarely effective in the dog. Treating a diabetic animal takes commitment and effort but is usually rewarding and most animals respond well to treatment. We will often look at your pet's diet and lifestyle and advise you on changes that could make the diabetes easier to control or even go into remission with time.

