

Bailey's Story

Bailey went missing on 19th November 2014. We had just moved from Moredon to Eldene and had only been there a couple of days when she escaped.



We spent months searching for her using Facebook and spent hundreds on leaflets which we dropped through doors in Eldene and Moredon. After 6 months we began to think we wouldn't get her home.

On the 28th Jan 2016 we got a phone call from Eastcott Vets to say that Bailey had been brought in, they found out our details when she was scanned for a chip. We were over the moon! Turns out she has spent her 14 month holiday in Tyco Electronics being fed by the staff! If we hadn't of had her chipped we would have never got her home!

She has settled in well. She had been very well looked after and we are over the moon to have her home.

We cannot express enough how important microchips are. After 14 months we got our baby back!

By Lisa Downey Bailey's owner

Recommend a Friend Prize Draw

Congratulations to E.C who has won £100 worth of Eastcott vouchers in this quarter's draw to spend on Bear. To read more about Recommend a Friend, visit our website or pick up a form from one of our waiting rooms.

My Cat is Constipated... are you sure? You may be missing a genuine emergency!!

A cat's repeated efforts to urinate are often mistaken for constipation. Whilst thankfully not too common, urethral blockage is a painful emergency. Failure to seek prompt attention can result in kidney failure and death.

Urethral obstruction is something that occurs almost exclusively in male cats. The urethra in a male cat is longer and narrower than that in a female cat, and so is more susceptible to becoming blocked.

What causes an obstruction?

- A 'plug' of 'debris' in the urethra - this is usually an accumulation of proteins, cells, crystals and debris in the bladder that accumulates and lodges in the urethra
- A small stone or an accumulation of very small stones that form in the bladder may become lodged in the urethra
- Swelling and spasm of the urethra - during inflammation of the bladder and urethra

How it is treated?

A vet will need to relieve the obstruction quickly, usually under anaesthetic or heavy sedation. Often a catheter needs to be passed into the urethra (via the penis). Fluids may be used via the catheter to flush out the obstruction and wash out any blood and debris. If the obstruction is caused by spasm of the urethral muscle, simply sedating or anaesthetising the cat may be sufficient to allow easy passage of a catheter into the bladder.

Commonly blood, urine tests, x rays or an ultrasound may be performed in order to check kidney function



to find the underlying cause of the obstruction and to help determine the most appropriate treatment plan.

Sometimes catheters are left in place for a few days to ensure urine can be produced while treatment is commenced for the underlying disease and inflammation. Further treatment depends on the underlying cause of the obstruction, the severity of the obstruction, and what (if any) complications have arisen. Any damage to the kidneys may be completely reversible, but cats will often have to receive intravenous fluids (a drip) if the kidneys have been affected.

Long-term management

Preventing further occurrences will depend on the underlying cause of the obstruction. Once the cause has been determined, they best long term management can be discussed. Options can include dietary changes, encouraging an increase in fluid uptake, stress relief and in some cases, surgery may be considered (a Perineal Urethrostomy helps to open and widen the narrow end to the urethra).

Contact us immediately if you think your cat may have an obstructed urethra, it should be treated as an emergency.

From Swansea to Swindon – Max’s Story

Max was just weeks old when he was involved in a terrible accident. He suffered multiple jaw fractures and had to be rushed from his owner’s Vet in Swansea to see our Specialist Veterinary Dentist, Peter Southerden. Max’s injuries were severe and he required all of Pete’s expertise to repair the fractures. “Max had a right mid body mandibular fracture and left caudal mandibular body fractures at 8 weeks old.

The fractures were unstable and because of his age I couldn’t use internal rigid fixation, so the technique I used was Maxillo-Mandibular Fixation using dental acrylic (bonding his canine teeth together in correct occlusion)”. – In

Layman’s terms, Pete had to ‘glue’ Max’s teeth together once the jaw fractures had been aligned in the correct position. That was not all that was required however, due to the severity of Max’s injuries and his very young age; he required round the clock intensive care. His mouth was bandaged almost fully closed and Max needed reassurance, specialist feeding and TLC that involved just about every member of staff.



Max has now celebrated his first birthday! Read his story written by his owner Rosemary on our website. You can also see photos and videos of Max’s progress. Search ‘Max’s Story’ on our News pages.

Can you judge a cat by it’s colour?

In our last newsletter we reported on research in cat’s behaviour being linked to their colour. The ‘Naughty Torties’ were being given a bad name! We have posted your comments on our website where you can read the full article.

Warning re dried jerky treats for dogs

In February the Animal Health Trust issued a warning for dog owners to be aware that some imported jerky treats may cause kidney dysfunction. Although we have not seen any cases at our clinics. There are reports that vets across the country have seen a number of dogs with kidney problems which they feel may be linked to them eating imported dried jerky treats, specifically chicken or duck. While a cause is unknown, all the treats were identified as originating from China.

Mellora Sharman, Internal Medicine Clinician at the Animal Health Trust, said:

“If you are in any doubt about feeding jerky treats to your dog, double check the country of origin on the packaging. The important thing is that most dogs respond well if the treats are removed from their diet promptly after noticing the clinical signs: increased thirst, loss of appetite and increased need to urinate... Some dogs may require hospitalisation and supportive medication but the more extreme cases of this syndrome so far appear to be less common in the UK. If you are currently feeding these types of treats to your pet and have any concerns, you should make an appointment with your vet and take the packaging of any treats with you to discuss in the consultation...This problem has been reported previously in America and Australia since 2007, as well as in the UK. It’s impossible to say what the cause of the syndrome is at this stage, as nothing has been proven yet. Several possible causes have been explored, such as the presence of salmonella, pesticides, glycerin, antivirals and level of irradiation in the treats, but none of these have been confirmed to be linked to the illness in dogs so far.”

Happy Retirement to Pat Oborn

We would like to wish a happy retirement to one of Eastcott’s oldest friends, Pat Oborn. Pat has been training dogs since she was 16 and has been training in Swindon for 38 years. She is very much part of the Eastcott family and for many years has helped us with our Puppy Parties. Despite her retirement we know that she will still be very much involved with dogs, it is in her DNA!



Edison Park Clinic & Hospital

Edison Park, Dorcan Way, Swindon SN3 3FR
For Sat Nav use SN3 3RB
Mon to Fri 7am - 8pm Sat & Sun 8.30am - 8pm

Bath Road Clinic

59 Bath Road, Old Town, Swindon SN1 4AU
Mon - Fri 8.30am - 7pm Sat 9am - 12pm

Cricklade Road Clinic

6 Clive Parade, Cricklade Road, Swindon SN2 1AJ
Weekdays 8.30am - 10am and 4pm - 7pm