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Christmas Day closed

Emergency Number:

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Pet of the Month: Toffee



Toffee is a 13 year old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. In June 2009 Toffee came in with his owner for a routine booster and it was noticed that he had a murmur on the left side of his heart. Cavaliers commonly develop a condition called **Mitral Valve disease** where the heart valves become thickened and are not able to work as effectively. This generates a murmur which we can hear on top or above the usual 'lup dub' sounds.

The best way to evaluate the heart is with an ultrasound probe to evaluate how well the heart is contracting and if any of the heart chambers are becoming irregular in wall thickness or size. We do not routinely use sedations for this kind of

procedure and it was not necessary as Toffee is such a well behaved little dog.

Toffee came in for the day to have this ultrasound performed. His heart was working well and it was recommended to have a repeat scan in 3-4months. When Toffee came in September one of his heart chambers had started to increase in size and so he was started on a medication to help his heart beat more efficiently.

In December Toffee had blood in his urine, and further investigations (x-rays) showed that he had 4 stones in his bladder. Unfortunately these stones do not dissolve well with dietary control or medication and had to be removed surgically. After this operation Toffee was on special food and a medication to help make his urine the correct acidity to prevent these stones re-occurring.

Every 4 months since then Toffee has visited us for a routine and bladder ultrasound. For the last 3 years we have gradually added new medication and increased his doses appropriate to the changes in his heart. He also has regular urine samples to make sure he doesn't develop more stones. Thanks to care and dedication from his owner Toffee is doing brilliantly. Toffee is a wonderful little dog and is always a pleasure to see, a true Parkside Hero!

Parkside Veterinary Centre at Beddington Mayfair festival

Come and join us in Beddington park for the local Mayfair where we are running a stall offering free health checks for our canine friends, or just pop by to say hello and participate in the fun!

Vaccine Amnesty month

Watch out for amnesty month this spring, where we will be offering adult vaccination restarts (these include animals that are over 12 weeks late for their booster) at a reduced fee! Watch this space!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our 2 qualified nurses, Kaylee and Stacey who have just completed their Pet Health Councilor Course, which means they are now able to give the best advice regarding your pets' nutrition and well being! Diet plays an important role in your pets' health including well animals and those with medical conditions. They are here to give help and support so come and see them for a free nurses clinic where they will help you with diet, mobility and any other health questions.



Max Shellim – The blocked cat! Feline emergencies



Spring has Sprung!

IT IS time to get out and about and enjoy the spring sunshine, but watch out for lurking spring time dangers.

It's great to exercise off the winter blues, but build things up gradually and avoid **over-exertion** as excessive exercise can result in injuries, for you and your dog! So rest any lame legs and get them checked out promptly.

Avoid playing with **sticks** as they can cause throat injuries, that may necessitate emergency treatment. Specially designed dog toys are always a much safer option.



Remember to keep **flea** and **tick** control up to date (ask us for more advice on the best products available) as parasite numbers are building up now, and be aware that levels of **pollens** and plants that can cause allergic skin disease and itchiness are increasing too.



Out in the garden, be aware that **slug pellets**, **bone meal** and **weedkillers** are common sources of poisoning and

try to ensure that pets don't dig up **spring bulbs** and eat them – since many are poisonous. Seek immediate veterinary advice if any case of poisoning is suspected.

Try to avoid growing or displaying **lilies** if you have cats, as the pollen can be very toxic, and enjoy your Easter



chocolate, but don't let your pets share it! Chocolate (especially the plain varieties) can be very dangerous to pets and might necessitate emergency treatment.

Finally, turning to **rabbits**, if you haven't had your rabbit vaccinated against **Myxomatosis** and **VHD** yet, act now! These usually fatal illnesses are a greater risk to rabbits as the weather warms up.



Enjoy your spring safely and have fun!



Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD) involves inflammation or irritation of the bladder (cystitis), urethra or both, and has many possible underlying causes. Here at Parkside we see FLUTD associated with bacterial infection, bladder stones, urine crystals, lumps in the bladder wall and sometimes no underlying cause is identifiable and the disease is termed Idiopathic. Idiopathic FLUTD

is particularly common in young male cats, especially those who are overweight, spend most of the day lying around and those who do not drink much water. It can also be triggered by something stressful such as a new animal in the house or a cattery visit. We also often see it when the weather is particularly bad and presume this is because cats are less inclined to go outside and hold their urine, causing irritation.

When suffering from FLUTD you may see a cat urinate more frequently, passing only small amounts of urine at a time and that urine may contain some blood. In these cases following analysis of the urine and possibly a blood test, medical treatment such as anti-inflammatories and pain relief can be given to provide relief. In male cats, however, there is a risk of the bladder becoming blocked, as the tube that empties the bladder is so narrow, stopping urine being passed altogether. These blockages can be caused by bladder stones, urine crystals or simply by inflammatory debris and red blood cells. This is an emergency as it can cause damage to the bladder or kidneys and can make the cat very ill indeed. Without a prompt visit to the vets these cats can, unfortunately, pass away.

You may recognise Max as the winner of our Christmas card competition. Max is an otherwise very healthy boy in perfect condition but unfortunately presented to the practice earlier this year unable to pass urine. His blood tests showed us he had severe electrolyte imbalances caused by his inability to pass urine, this had all occurred very quickly. He was placed on a fluid drip to correct these imbalances and a tube was placed up into his bladder to allow the urine to empty. This was left in for 3 days whilst he was treated medically. Once the tube was removed he started passing urine normally but he will have to be monitored very closely in the future as this can be a recurrent problem.

So if you notice any changes in your cat's urination habits please do let us know straight away!

Dawson - Our parkside feline heart case!

Dawson came to Parkside from a local rescue centre after being abandoned. He seemed to be a healthy young boy but after the staff noticed an increased respiration rate they wondered if something could be wrong with him. He had a murmur on his heart exam and an ultrasound showed that he has a very rare condition called **Tetralogy of Fallot** which involves having 4 problems; a hole in his heart, a narrowing of one of his main arteries, a main artery (aorta) which takes blood from both sides of his heart instead of just one, and a thickening of his heart muscle. Dawson was not re-homable because the condition means that he will have a very short life-span. However, one of our wonderful nurses has decided to keep him until his condition deteriorates. He has been with us now for three months and is a very happy and cheeky adolescent cat!

