



Surgery Times

CHESHAM

Amersham Road
HP5 1NQ

By Appointment

Monday & Wednesday:
8am - 10pm

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:
8am - 7.30pm

Saturday: 8.30am - 5pm

Sunday: 10am - 4pm

Tel: 01494 782001

AMERSHAM

No. 1 Woodside Close
HP6 5EG

By Appointment

Monday - Thursday:
8.30am - 7.30pm

Friday: 8.30am - 5.30pm

Saturday: 8.30am - 11am

Tel: 01494 725320

CHALFONT ST GILES

The London Road
Chalfont St Giles
HP8 4NL

By Appointment

Monday:
8am - 7.30pm

Tuesday & Thursday:
8am - 10pm

Wednesday & Friday:
8am - 5.30pm

Saturday: 8.30am - 1pm

Tel: 01494 871329



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Wheelhouse Senior Pet Screening Programme



Research over years has shown that the ageing process can affect cats and dogs health once they reach eight years of age. The effects of this process can often be very subtle, but can be picked up at an early stage, giving you the opportunity to maintain your pet's quality of life. When you live with your pet day in day out it's quite difficult to notice subtle changes in their condition. It is easy to dismiss important changes as 'just getting old'. We are so passionate about making older age as happy and healthy as possible, we have created our very own small team of dedicated vets and nurses who have an in depth knowledge of senior care. Their aim is to help you to recognise and understand these signs and help you to manage the transition into, and through the senior phase of your pet's life.

Symptoms of Getting Older

- Vision Loss and other Eye Problems
- Increased/Strained Urination
- Bad Breath, Bloody Gums and other Oral Problems
- Lumps, Bumps and other Skin Problems
- Gaining/Losing Weight
- Difficulty Moving about
- Behaviour and Memory Problems

It is so easy to see that animals are affected by age in similar ways to us humans. Pets age much more quickly than we do, remember one human year is roughly equivalent to seven pet years.

By the time your pet reaches eight years old this equates to a 56 year old human!

How can we help?

We have devised our very own Senior Pet Screening Programme and we are encouraging all animals aged eight years and over to join up and receive the following:

- **A wellness overview** - a chance for you to tell your vet about any changes of behaviour or physical appearance you have noticed. Use our checklist (above) as a reminder of the changes you should be looking out for.

- **Hands on physical examination** - your vet will palpate or feel your pet's musculoskeletal system, abdomen, and head and neck areas for abnormalities. A stethoscope will be used to listen to your pet's heart and lungs. Your pet's eyes, ears, and mouth will also be checked for age-related problems, such as cataracts, dental problems, and ear canal disorders.
- **Diagnostic tests** - such as blood work, urinalysis and blood pressure monitoring.
- A detailed information and senior support pack.

What do we screen for?

Electrolyte Balance • Cholesterol • Thyroid level
• Diabetes • Dental disease • Eye / Ear Disease
• Mobility and Arthritis Check • Body Scoring, weight check and Diet review • Nails/Skin check
• Liver Health • Kidney Function • Full Blood Count • Blood Pressure Check - only available in prevention plus package

You have two options for the screening programme to choose from:

Prevention ~~£184.50~~ £99

Prevention Plus ~~£224.50~~ £120

Procedure	Fee	Prevention	Prevention Plus
30 Minute Veterinary Examination	£65	✓	✓
15 Minute Nurse Examination	£26	✓	✓
General Health Profile Blood Test	£75	✓	✓
Urinalysis	£18.50	✓	✓
Blood Pressure Monitoring	£40	✗	✓
Package Total	£224.50	£99	£120

How do I book my pet's appointment?

It's simple, just contact your usual surgery and the reception team will deal with everything for you!



Caring for your elderly cat

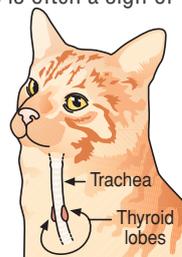
Elderly cats can seem to have the ideal life; snoozing in a cosy bed, eating when they fancy and occasionally demanding attention. They can appear so content, it is easy to assume that they are well in themselves, but their peaceful appearance can be deceiving!

In their twilight years, our feline friends are vulnerable to many illnesses, but are extremely good at hiding the signs. So, we have to be super vigilant to ensure they don't suffer in silence. Regular health-checks are a good way of helping to keep your cat in top shape and pick up medical conditions early, when they are easier to treat. Here is a list of things to keep an eye on:

Sore Joints: One of the most common problems for geriatric cats is painful arthritis. The vast majority will suffer with it to some degree but spotting the problem is a challenge. Cats are natural athletes, so they will still be agile to a certain degree, they will jump, climb and play, but with less freedom and frequency. You may notice they don't sleep in a previously preferred spot, if it is higher up, and they hesitate before jumping both up and down. Perhaps they are sleeping more, don't put a lack of activity down to age, it could be pain or illness. Is your cat a little more grumpy? Less keen to play or interact with the family? Not grooming themselves? Contact us to arrange a check-up.

Eating habits: Dental disease is very common in older cats and can be extremely painful. Older cats with dental disease may become fussy with their food, chew on one side, or refuse dry food. However, in many cases they will show no signs at all, making regular dental-checks vital. If your cat becomes fussy with food, contact us to make an appointment.

Weight loss: Notice your cat looking slimmer? In senior felines, weight loss is often a sign of underlying illness, but in many cases, the gradual nature of the drop makes it difficult to spot. We are very happy to weigh your cat, and this is a great way to monitor their health if you can't weigh them at home. You can also monitor their 'body condition score', so ask us how to do this to keep an eye on their level of fat and muscle. A common cause of weight loss in older cats is thyroid disease. An overactive thyroid will cause your cat to lose weight despite a ravenous appetite. The good news is that thyroid disease can be diagnosed from a simple blood test and there are a range of treatment options to manage this condition.



Drinking more: Drinking more than usual may be an early sign of some medical conditions such as kidney disease and diabetes, both of which are fairly common in older cats. Cats naturally drink very little, so if you see your cat constantly at the water bowl, please get in touch for a check-up. Equally, if the litter tray suddenly seems heavy or your cat is urinating in the house, let us know.

Dementia: We hear about this debilitating condition in humans and it can also affect cats. Affected cats may yowl in the night (this can also be a sign of other problems such as high blood pressure), seem confused, interact less with the family or start to urinate or defaecate in the house. If your cat starts keeping you up, please let us know. A few health tests and some treatment can often get you both back to having restful nights.

If you notice any of the above signs, please get in touch to book an appointment for a health-check. The good news is that modern diagnostic tests, combined with an expanding range of treatments, can greatly improve the quality of life of your elderly pet.

Diet dilemmas!



With so many choices on the market, it can be quite a minefield finding the ideal diet for your pet. The most important thing is that the diet for your pet needs to be balanced and in the correct quantities.

To help with this, many pet foods have a selection of age ranges, such as puppy or kitten, junior, adult and senior. These are to help tailor the calorie and nutritional contents. Some also have specially designed breed types or breed sizes, such as giant and large breed dogs. It is very important that your pet stays a healthy weight to reduce illnesses in later life. Neutered diets and lower calorie diets are available to help maintain a balanced weight.

Complete diets can be in wet or dry forms, so you can choose what is best for your pet depending on their tastes.



Some diets (or kibble) are designed to help with dental disease, which can be a complete diet or fed as a supplement.

If your pet has an illness, a specific veterinary diet may help with your pet's condition. Kidney diets are low in some toxins and waste products to reduce the chemicals your pet's body needs to eliminate. Intestinal diets are designed to help with short and long term digestive issues. Special hydrolysed diets mean that specific proteins have been broken into small pieces so that they can help reduce symptoms from skin allergies. With diets designed for fur balls in cats, diabetes and liver disease, the choice is endless.

If you need any advice regarding your pet's diet, please don't hesitate to ask!

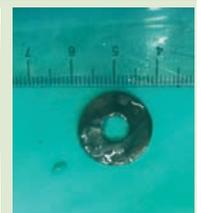
The assurance of insurance: is your pet insured?



Knowing that your dog, cat or rabbit is insured can be a weight off your mind, especially if your pet has a sudden accident or illness and you are faced with an unexpected vet bill.

There are different types of cover to choose from. The top cover is a **lifetime policy** where your pet is covered for a condition for life, usually up to a certain amount of money per year. A **time-restricted policy** means that you can claim per condition, usually for 12 months only. If your pet has an on-going condition such as diabetes or arthritis, the cover expires after the time period. A **condition-restricted policy** means that you can claim up to a certain amount per condition. **Accident only insurance** is a basic cover only. Insurance won't cover a condition if it has occurred before the policy was started. This means it is useful to choose good cover for your pet as soon as possible.

We highly recommend insuring your pet since there are a huge number of surgical and medical conditions that can be very costly to treat.



Pets commonly swallow items which require surgery to remove them, however it's not every day that a kitten swallows a washer! Happily, surgery resolved the issue for this young cat.

In addition to the need for unexpected surgery, many *medical* conditions (such as skin infections, ear disease, kidney or heart disease – to name just a few!) can also be very costly to treat.