



Veterinary Centre

387 Walsall Road, Great Wyrley,
Staffordshire, WS6 6DP

NEWS

ONLY £20
including tests
and full health
check with vet

NEW Senior Pet Clinics

Pets can suffer from age-related diseases too, and it's important to catch them early for effective treatment – which, in some cases, is literally life-saving. That's why we've introduced a new screening programme for cats and dogs over 8 years old. Your pet will spend a morning with us and receive: a full health and dental examination with a vet; mobility scoring for arthritis, urine testing (checking urine concentration for kidney function, diabetes screen, checking blood protein levels); blood pressure monitoring (cats only); eye pressure testing for glaucoma (dogs only). We also go through a lifestyle and health questionnaire with you when we admit your pet, and we'll discuss your pet's health screen at their discharge appointment. All for just £20. Book your appointment at reception!

387 Vets runners up in National Marketing Awards



387 Vets were delighted to be 'Highly Commended' in the Practice Marketing category of the Veterinary Marketing Association Awards 2013, held in London earlier this year. The awards recognise marketing excellence across the veterinary industry

and in the practice marketing category, judges were specifically looking for the most initiative and innovation in the marketing of products and services to end users. 387 Veterinary Centre came second behind XL Vets – a country-wide group of small animal, large animal and equine practices. Other finalists included a referral centre and a multi-branch practice.

387 Vets 2015 charity calendar – NOW ON SALE

April's National Pet Month saw us launch our first ever pet charity calendar project. Thanks to everyone who sent in entries telling us why their pets are so special. We're including and celebrating them all! There are a fabulous mix of pet photos – funny, full of life and some heart-melting too. Buy your 2015 calendar for £5, and as well as making each month in 2015 brighter, you'll be making a valuable contribution to charity as all profits will be donated to The Cinnamon Trust.



Pet First Aid Courses available at 387 Vets



Would you know how to handle an emergency situation before you can get to the vet? 387 Vets now runs pet first aid courses which teach pet owners exactly this. The aim of the course is to understand the types of emergencies that can affect pets, to recognise a genuine veterinary emergency and to be able to administer basic first aid safely to a sick or injured pet.

The course is run by Head Nurse Nicky Smith, and is split into two sessions, one theory, and one practical. "It's really important that people know what's normal for their animals so they can identify what's not normal

more readily. In the first session, we look at temperature, pulse, respiration and gum colour, and how changes can be indicators of illness or physical distress. We discuss other physical signs that show something is wrong too, and give people strategies for administering the right basic first aid for the emergency scenario – or for identifying when urgent vet treatment is needed.

"The second session is very hands on and everyone gets a chance to have a go. Small groups work through different wound scenarios requiring bandaging, and have 'What would you do?' challenges too. And CasPeR our CPR mannequin makes an appearance! Everyone gets to perform mouth-to-snout resuscitation and check whether CasPeR has a pulse. It's harder than it looks!"

The course is £40. All attendees receive their own customised pet first aid kit as well as a certificate on completion. Handouts, practical materials and refreshments are included.

As places are limited, please phone reception to register your interest.

"A great course and very informative. Essential for any dog owner."

Matt S

"Very useful. It covered everything that a pet may experience both on a simple day to day level, right up to serious life threatening situations that a pet owner would hopefully never have to experience." *Anita S*

387 Vets get training for Vet Charity Challenge 2014

Following an amazing journey last year, where, with your support, 387 Vets raised £1096 for animal charities, team '387 Va-va-voom' is limbering up ready for Vet Charity Challenge's 2014 event.

This year's challenge takes place on Saturday 27th September near Marlborough in Wiltshire. As before, the course combines walking/ running, off-road biking, kayaking and mental agility as teams try to accumulate points in a given time limit to come out 'top dog'. In 2013, the event raised £50,000 for charity and this Autumn, all sponsor money will be shared out between Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, the Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad (SPANNA) and Cats Protection.

387 Vets team leader Hamish Duncan said, "We're really excited to be involved again. We loved working together as a team in a completely different environment, and this year we'll be looking to see if we can do even better than 15th! Most importantly, it's a brilliant opportunity to support life-enriching initiatives and help animal charities give so many animals the chance of a better life"

'387 Va-va-voom' is aiming to raise a minimum of £400 but would love to beat last year's total! Can you help keep up team morale? To make a donation, sign the sponsorship sheet at reception, or you can give online at –

www.virginmoneygiving.com/387vetcentre



Spotlight on Senior Pets

More than 20% of dogs over 8 have arthritis

As we get older, our health can become much more of an issue and it's exactly the same for our pets. There are lots of age-related illnesses and conditions we can be unaware of in our pets until disease has really progressed, such as kidney, heart and thyroid disease as well as diabetes and arthritis too. Animals can be very good at hiding chronic (i.e. low level, long term) pain. Spotting change early can help avoid untold distress. We recommend that you start to look for signs of aging as your pet approaches 8 years of age.

The 'nose to tail' check

Learning what's normal – and jotting it down – is really important as you can identify subtle changes easily. Just getting into the habit of running a 'nose to tail' check once a month could make all the difference to your pet's quality of life – and give vets a useful timeframe of any change.

Nose	Moist? In good condition?
Teeth	Bad teeth and old age go hand in hand! Never ignore dental disease. Are teeth clean? No gum recession/ exposed roots? No painful redness in gums?
Eyes	Clean? Moist? Dry eye can be old-age linked and can lead to ulcers. Any cloudiness could signify cataracts
Ears	Clean? Odour-free? No redness? You should be able to touch them!
Neck	Full, free movement? Do the treat test! Move a treat around so your pet rotates round/ up/ down/ to sides to sniff.
Tummy	Check for any lumps, especially round nipples. Always get any lumps checked over by a vet.
Legs	Examine both legs at same time. Look for symmetry. Should look the same. Feel for lumps. Check between toes too.
Paws	Give you good insight into mobility. Long nails or nails which are blunter on one side may indicate a mobility issue. Cats' claws should be sharp.
Bottom/ rump	Check not losing muscle here. This can be symptomatic of arthritis, and also kidney, liver and thyroid conditions.
Back	Should enjoy – not resent – being petted. Any pain?
Skin	Dandruff common in older pets. Can be treated with special pet shampoo.
Genitals	In males, look for symmetry. Testicular cancer is common in unneutered dogs.

DON'T FORGET: Think about any changes in appetite, behaviour, exercise tolerance, intake of water and mobility too.

Grumpiness is not an inherent characteristic of old age in pets. It links to pain.

NEW Senior Pet Clinics at 387 Vets
Proactive peace of mind
See overleaf...



Help us to help you!

Often we close our eyes to problems as we can't bear to think that a visit to the vets could bring news we just don't want to hear. But do take action if you notice any abnormal changes in your pet. Seeking veterinary advice early could help us to work with you to manage underlying conditions successfully, as well as radically improve your pet's quality of life.

Calendar Years	Small Dog Under 9kg	Medium Dog 9-23kg	Large Dog 23-41kg	XL Dog over 41kg
1	15	15	14	12
2	23	24	22	20
3	28	29	29	28
4	32	34	34	35
5	36	38	40	42
6	40	42	45	49
7	44	47	50	56
8	48	51	55	64
9	52	56	61	71
10	56	60	66	78
11	60	65	72	86
12	64	69	77	93
13	68	74	82	101
14	72	78	88	108
15	76	83	93	115
16	80	87	99	123
17	84	92	104	
18	88	96	109	
19	92	101	115	
20	96	105	120	

A guide to your dog's age in human years
Norbrook Laboratories