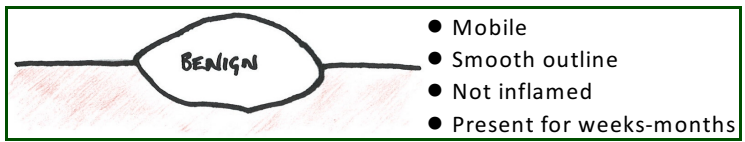


Lumps and bumps: need we worry?



Have you found a lump on your pet, and if so what is it and what can be done? Lumps can of course be cancerous but not always and it's always important to consider that many other things can be possibilities, for example: abscesses, infection, foreign material, cysts etc. If they do appear to be cancerous they can be of two types:

1. **Benign** - do not spread but may grow locally and can be a problem depending on the site, ie: armpit, thus affecting walking, or if they ulcerate or get caught.
2. **Malignant** - more aggressive and have the potential to spread to other sites.



How do we know what a lump is?

The answer to this question is that we don't know just from looking at it what type of lump it is and what prognosis it carries. We can look at some features of the lump to give us some idea of whether we should or should not be immediately concerned. These features are:

- **Is it mobile?**
If a skin lump can be picked up and moved with ease then this is a good sign in general. If the lump is fixed to deeper tissues it may be more invasive and malignant growths are more likely to do this.
- **Is it red, inflamed and painful?**
A fast growing invasive mass is more likely to cause inflammation and pain.
- **How long has it been there and is it growing?**
Many malignant growths will arise quickly and grow visibly over a period of days. Benign growths tend to be slower growing and noticeable change may take months.
- **Is the outline smooth or nodular?**
Some malignant growths may have an irregular outline as their growth looks to invade deeper tissues.
- **Are the lymph nodes elevated?**
Malignant growths may cause local lymph nodes to become enlarged. Also, the lump may be a lymph node thus suggesting other possible conditions!

The above criteria give us a rough guide, and occasionally certain growths may not act in the ways described. To find out exactly what growth is involved, other tests may be suggested. These may be:

- **Fine needle aspirate (FNA):**
A needle is introduced into the lump and cells sucked out. These can then be examined microscopically. This can often be done on a conscious animal. It often gives a good idea of the type of growth, but occasionally can be inconclusive and so other testing may be suggested.
- **Biopsy:**
Usually involves sedation or anaesthesia and then taking a section of the tissue to send away. This technique will always give you an accurate diagnosis of the precise nature.
- **Removal and biopsy:**
Often requires sedation or anaesthesia. The lump is completely removed and this tissue is then biopsied. The advantages are that the growth is removed and the biopsy will be able to give a precise diagnosis as well as tell if all affected tissue has been removed.

The action taken will at times depend in the site of the growth. For example, a small lump on a leg where there is not much skin to operate with is better removed early to ensure it can be completely removed. Leaving this type of mass until later may mean that skin grafting or even more severe measures are required!

If you have noticed a lump and are concerned, then let the veterinary surgeon know at your appointment. Many may require no action but early detection of concerning lumps always helps.

Do you have an ageing pet?

If you are lucky enough to have a companion animal as part of your life, then you will understand the absolute joy and deep bond that comes with pet ownership. Our furry companions go through puppy or kitten hood into adults and eventually their senior years, much like we do, the difference of course being that they reach old age more quickly. A ten year old cat is around fifty-five years old in human years and a large breed dog is fifty-five at just seven of our years!

There are many telltale signs of old age creeping up on our pets: increased or decreased appetite, slowing down and stiffness when moving, weight gain or loss, and a change in the feel of their coat as well as its colour. In addition, you may notice cats sleeping more and being less likely to jump up or climb things, perhaps your dog struggles to get up out of his bed or plays with the ball less?

The great news is that your pet doesn't have to put up with these changes. There are so many advances in pet healthcare these days, for example supplements for supple joints or special diets to help kidney or heart disease, that we can really make a difference to the quality of life of our pets. In addition, modern pet care is very much focussed on making our lives as owners as stress free as possible; for example, many tablets are tasty treats and need giving less times a day than historically.



As pet owners we often associate a visit to the vets with a time of illness and often feel it can be expensive! But did you realise that the vet is there for preventative healthcare too? Much like you would have a health assessment even when you feel fine, the same service can be offered to your pet. By finding out about the health of your pet and catching any problems early, the chances of successful treatment are much higher and often less costly. The benefits of regular health assessments are clear: a longer, healthier life for your pet and many more happy years together.

We are more than happy to see you and your pet at any time to discuss how we can help you do the best for your pet.

January 2010 is Senior Pet Month and this has now been **extended into February**. As part of Senior Pet Month, we are offering a **complimentary consultation** with a fully qualified nurse who will spend time examining your cat or dog before having an in-depth discussion about lifestyle, leading to helpful, realistic advice. In addition, we are offering a **health screen blood test at £30 instead of the usual £57.40**. Blood tests can give us important clues as to the health of your animal, guiding us towards better healthcare and longer life! If you would like to come in for an appointment, please telephone 01722 333291 - we look forward to hearing from you.

How to Save Money on Your Small Animal Vets' Fees ...

Pet Health Plans

At Endell Veterinary Group we believe preventative healthcare is very important and by having this in place it can save a lot of money in vets' fees by picking problems up at an early stage when they will be much cheaper to treat. Our Pet Health Plans are designed to save you money on preventative healthcare such as vaccinations, flea and worm control and offer discounts on consultations, drugs and operations (a 15-24% saving), plus you spread out the cost into easy monthly payments.

Please ask about our health plans when you next visit us or telephone 0800 169 9958 for more information.

	Monthly Premium		Monthly Premium <10kg	Monthly Premium 10-20kg	Monthly Premium 21-40kg	Monthly Premium 40kg+		Monthly Premium
Kitten	£11	Puppy	£11	£12	£13	£14		
Adult Cat	£12	Adult Dog	£12	£14	£15	£18	Rabbit	£8
Older Cat	£14	Older Dog	£12	£14	£16	£18		

Discounted Clinic for Pensioners

Every weekday, the small animal department runs a discounted clinic for pensioners between 10am and 4pm. Any clients who are pensioners will qualify for a 10% discount (some conditions apply) on consultations, medications, Hill's pet food and operations (15% off dental procedures) booked within one month of recommendation. (Conditions apply.) For more information or to book an appointment, please telephone us on 01722-333291.



Repeat Prescriptions

Following government medicines regulations that came into effect on 1 November 2005, we would like to advise you of the following:

Prescriptions are available from this practice. You may obtain Prescription Only Medicines, Category V, (POM Vs) from your veterinary surgeon or ask for a written prescription and obtain these medicines from another veterinary surgeon or a pharmacy. Your veterinary surgeon may prescribe POM Vs only for animals under his or her care. A prescription may not be appropriate if your animal is an in-patient or immediate treatment is necessary. You will be informed, on request, of the price of any medicine that may be prescribed for your animal. The general policy of the Small Animal Department of this practice is to reassess an animal requiring repeat prescriptions every six months, but this may vary with individual circumstances. The standard charge for a re-examination is £22.02. The current prices for the ten POM Vs most commonly prescribed or supplied during a typical three month period are displayed in our waiting room. Further information on the prices of medicines is available on request.

Repeat prescriptions are available at forty-eight hours' notice, Monday to Friday.