



Monthly Mash Up

Cattitude

What is your cat scared of?

Lots of cat owners are concerned about bringing their cat to the vet because it might stress them out. This can be true but did you know that coming to the vet isn't the thing that cats are most scared of?



Take a look at the information below, you might be surprised!

43% of cats are afraid of conflict with other cats. This could be from cats who live in the same home as them or cats that live in the same neighbourhood. It is considered to be one of the main sources of stress for cats.

35% of cats are fearful of people they don't know. Humans are the centre of a dog's universe but for cats, its universe is a physical space where it feels relaxed. Cats are bonded to their location with the bond to the owner coming second.

34% of cats are scared of fireworks and loud noises in general.

24% of cats are afraid of going to the vet.

14% of cats don't get along with other cats they live with.

Tableting your Cat

If you struggle to give your cat tablets, particularly just the routine parasite products, it might be worth investing in a pill giver. This is a great way to give your cat tablets and, with some practice, it can become a fairly calm and stress free task for both you and your cat.

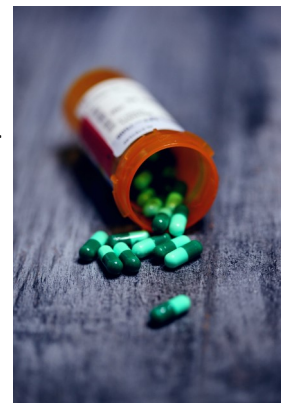


Helen, one of our RVNs, has a cheeky cat called Albert who now takes regular medication for health issues. Helen has spent some time getting Albert used to the pill giver and is now able to tablet Albert with very little fuss. This is quite a feat as Albert can be a feisty customer and has left scars to prove it!

Visit our YouTube channel and see how Helen has now perfected using this tool and if you need help tableting your cat, get in touch.

Pill Your Cat with Kindness

Do you want to learn how you can train your cat to take pills with little fuss? Visit our website and download our training sheet which describes the approach of using treats as the premise of the training. This time and effort might just come in handy for the future if your cat needs to take regular medication to manage age related health issues.



Rowan Veterinary Centre Ltd
Hillock Lane, Warton, Preston, PR4 1TP
Tel: 01772 639800 Fax: 01772 634801
The Old Bank, 369 Whitegate Drive, Blackpool, FY3 9PH
Tel: 01253 766352
Email: admin@rowanvets.co.uk
www.rowanvets.co.uk

Worms

Cats are fantastic and efficient hunters and some owners are regularly given "presents" from their cats.

If your cat is a regular hunter, they are at risk of picking up parasitic worms from mice, birds and even from mud! Trying to stop the natural behaviours of your cat or controlling where they roam if they're outdoor cats, is pretty impossible. The only way to protect them is to ensure that they get regular worming treatment. We have a great leaflet available on our website which gives information on the types of parasites that can affect your cat.



Cats have different worming needs depending on their home circumstances. To find out about your cat's needs, visit <https://www.wormwise.co.uk/worming-your-pet/worm-risk-checker>, and answer a few questions about your cat's lifestyle and find out how often you should be worming your cat!

Bringing Your Cat to the Vet

Owners regularly tell us that they find bringing their cat to the vet a very stressful experience for all concerned. One of these stressors can be trying to get your cat into a carrier so that they can be safely transported.



It's advised that owners train their cat from an early age to accept and become familiar with a carrier so that when it's needed your cat won't be deterred or stressed by it. However, as the saying goes, it's never too late to learn new tricks so we'd like to share some tips on how you can introduce a cat carrier into your cat's world to help reduce the stress of transporting them.

- Firstly, purchase a carrier that can be split into two. This makes it MUCH easier to put your cat into and take your cat out of the carrier. It can also help the vet or nurse who is treating your cat, as much of an examination can take place with your cat in the bottom half of the carrier where your cat feels safer and therefore less stressed by the visit.
- Leave the carrier in your living room all the time (or other room that your cat spends a lot of time in) with the door open, so that your cat can explore it in their own time. Your cat may be curious about the carrier to begin with, sniffing it and walking around it. In time your cat will accept the carrier as part of the furniture.
- Your cat may enter the carrier of their own accord. If they don't, encourage them by putting some dry food or treats inside. You could also put a familiar toy or blanket inside to help but whatever you use, always keep the experience calm and positive, giving your cat lots of praise throughout. In some cases, cats have been known to enjoy being fed in their carrier!
- With time your cat will become used to the carrier and may even use it to sleep or rest in.
- When it's time to use the carrier to transport your cat, take the carrier apart and place your cat into the bottom half, holding them gently while you secure the top half of the carrier together. Again you could place a familiar blanket or toy inside to provide some added security for your cat.

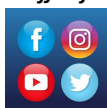
As with all things, routine and habit form much of our lives and that applies to our pets too. What they become used to or view as "normal" comes from repeating the same thing again and again, so persistence and consistency is key.

Download our "Top Ten Tips" from our website and get ideas on how to make a visit to the vets much less stressful for your cat.

Cats and Pain

Would you know if your cat was in pain? Cats are masters at hiding pain. It's in their DNA to hide it as showing any kind of weakness or vulnerability in the wild could lead to attack and certain death. We will talk about our pets and pain in general during October 2020. In the meantime, visit our website for information on the signs to look out for which might suggest your cat needs pain management support.

If you have any questions about vaccination or would like to discuss your specific needs, please call the team who will be happy to help. They will advise you as to how you can access our services during the COVID 19 pandemic to keep you and our staff safe.



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