

## Kipling the cat with 9 lives



Introducing Kipling, a Streetkatz rescue with a big story, and an even bigger heart, who was brought to Culverden one Saturday morning after being hit by a car.

Kipling was in a very bad way, with life threatening injuries, and Culverden staff had to work fast to stabilise his condition.

Kipling's upper and lower jaw were fractured, his right eye was badly swollen and he was struggling to breathe. The surgical team, led by Dr Phil Cusack, repaired both fractures, and a tear that opened up all along his hard palate. A feeding tube was placed in Kipling's oesophagus as it was clear his injuries were so horrific he wouldn't be able to eat for weeks to come.

Remarkably after all of the above it took just four days to get Kipling out of 'kitty critical care', with nurses working round the clock to clean him, feed him via his food tube (up to eight times a day) and keep him comfortable. Kate from Streetkatz, who brought him in, was as dedicated as the vet team and visited regularly to keep his spirits up.

Eventually things started to look up for Kipling. He left hospital, and Kate was able to take over his feeding at home, with his jaw fractures and palate tear healing nicely. The feeding tube was removed and some nifty dental work performed (by practice partner Tom Doyle) to ensure his teeth didn't clash in his newly formed jaw. Partner Duncan Mitchell then repaired Kipling's damaged eyelid to restore his handsome face.

Kipling is a remarkable cat who defied great odds to pull through, and made some firm friends among the Culverden vet and nursing team along the way.

He really is a hairy hero!

To find out more about the charity Streetkatz, and the wonderful work they do, please visit the website:

<http://www.streetkatzrescue.com/>

## Tips for a Stress Free Visit to the Vet



Duncan Mitchell bonds with a feline patient

A trip to the vets can be a nervous time for some animals. The car journey, the waiting room and lots of unusual smells and sounds can all make it feel a bit stressful for both you and your pet.

Here are a few helpful tips to make your next visit to Culverden a little bit easier.

- Bring your dogs to visit us regularly, even if they are not unwell. Pop in and weigh them, or bring them along when you're picking up their parasite control or food. Our staff are always pleased to see you and are expert treat givers and cuddlers.
- Leave your cat or rabbit carrier out at home, so your pet can get used to going in and out as they please rather than only seeing it on the day of the vet visit. You can pop some treats in now and again to increase their enjoyment of the space.
- Try using a cat pheromone spray like Feliway in and around the carrier both before and on the day of the appointment to help make the carrier a happy place to be.
- Cats especially prefer to be higher up and away from prying eyes, so in the waiting room try to keep the carrier off the floor, away from dogs, and cover the basket with a towel or blanket. In Crowborough and Tunbridge Wells we have a special cat stand for you to use, and we are always happy to offer your pet a quiet spot behind the reception desk, so please just ask.
- Handle your pets at home, almost like a veterinary check, so they get used to being examined all over.
- If it is a nice cool day feel free to sit with your pet in the car until it is time to see the vet – just pop in to let us know you're waiting.
- Make use of the free dental, weight and parasite checks we offer so that your pet can spend some time with our lovely vet nurses and associate their visit to us with lots of fuss and cuddles.
- Finally, always remember that here at Culverden we really pride ourselves on looking after our human clients as well as our furry ones, so if there is anything we can do to help make your visit to us a more pleasant experience please do ask. We will always go the extra mile if we can, and all of us are pet owners ourselves so we really do understand!

## Is my pet at risk of toothache?

It is important to have your pet's teeth and gums checked regularly, as often problems can go unnoticed until they become serious and painful. This is part of the annual health check, and we also offer FREE dental checks with our nurses.

A healthy mouth has pale pink gums and bright white teeth, but an accumulation of plaque and tartar can cause conditions ranging from bad breath to gum disease and tooth loss, with a host of unpleasant symptoms along the way. As always prevention is key and we can advise on brushing, chews and diet changes to help avoid painful problems later.

If the worst should happen and dental work is needed then we're ready! Our vets are skilled animal dentists and our surgeries are equipped with the tools they need, including dental x-ray.



Healthy mouth



Gingivitis and calculus



Severe gum disease

## New faces



**Dr Rachel Holbrook**  
BVSc, MRCVS - small animal  
vet Tunbridge Wells

Dr Rachel Holbrook will be working with Duncan in Tunbridge Wells. Rachel is fresh from Bristol vet school and has made a brilliant start with us, developing her clinical skills – and teaching an old dog a few new tricks.



**Dr Michael Molloy**  
BVM, BVS, MRCVS  
Tunbridge Wells

Dr Michael Molloy joined the teams in Wadhurst and Tunbridge Wells. Michael is our first colleague from the new vet school in Nottingham, where he also met his wife. They live in Kent with their two cats.



**Fiona Norman-Brown** brings her nursing experience to the Tunbridge Wells hospital team. Fiona has a young Cavalier King Charles Spaniel called Humphrey.



**Jennie Wilkinson**  
Receptionist  
Wadhurst

Jennie joined Wadhurst as a receptionist in January 2018, and loves making a fuss of all our patients. She has two rescue cats called Hank and Boris and a Jackapoo puppy called Rafa.

## Appointment Times

**Tunbridge Wells:**  
01892 520296

**Monday to Friday:**  
9–11am, 2.30–4.30pm,  
5–6.30pm

**Saturday:** 8.30–11.30am

**Crowborough:**  
01892 661650

**Monday to Friday:**  
9–11am, 2.30–4pm,  
5–6.30pm

**Saturday:** 8.30–11.00am

**Wadhurst:**  
01892 782382

**Monday to Friday:**  
9–11am, 2.30–4pm

**Monday & Thursday:**  
5–6.30pm



Follow us!



Like us!



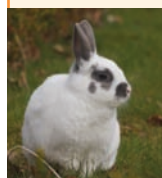
## Hot weather checklist.

We all love spending sunny days outdoors, but for our furry coated companions the warmer weather can bring a few problems. Here are a few helpful tips to make sure everyone enjoys the sunshine this summer.

- Do ensure you are up to date with flea, tick and worm prevention, as more time outside and warm breeding conditions make summer a prime time for these to strike. Please ask us for advice on the best products for your pets and how often to apply them.
- Do ensure your pets have plenty of fresh clean water both inside and out, and give them a shady place to get out of the sun, as animals can dehydrate very quickly. Ice cubes can be a lovely treat for sticky pets on hot days.
- Don't over exercise pets in hot weather, try to walk dogs in the early morning or evening when the sun is not so fierce, and keep them indoors when temperatures soar.



- Do make sure you know the symptoms of overheating in pets, which include excessive panting, drooling, mild weakness or stupor, or in extreme cases collapse. Symptoms can also include seizures, bloody diarrhoea and vomit, along with an elevated temperature of over 104 degrees.
- Don't ever leave your animals alone in a parked vehicle. Even with open windows a car can be a death trap for animals on a warm day as the temperature can rise very quickly to more than they can withstand.
- Do use a suitable pet safe sun screen on pets with very pale pink or white ears to prevent sunburn.
- Do trim or brush your animal's coat, but never shave them. Strange as it may seem the layers of the furry overcoat protect them from sunburn.
- Remember that food and drink consumed at barbeques can be very harmful to pets, as can any change to their usual diet. Keep all food and beverages well out or reach, especially raw or cooked meat/bones, raisins, grapes, onions and chocolate. Call us immediately if you suspect your pet has ingested any of the above.
- When the temperature is very high remember that dogs paws can burn on hot pavements so try to walk off road where possible and minimise exposure.
- Do ensure small furies like guinea pigs and rabbits have plenty of shade and plenty of cool fresh water. Never leave them out in full sun.



- Do check rabbits fur daily for signs of fly strike, which is a big problem in summer months. Flies are attracted to moist and dirty areas of fur to lay eggs, which then hatch into maggots that feed on your pet's skin. Keep hutches clean, and please call for advice on products that can help prevent fly strike.
- Do remember to help out wildlife in hot weather. Fill bird baths and containers with fresh water, and keep feeding birds and hedgehogs, as warmer weather bakes the soil and deprives them of valuable worms and insects. Cheese, mealworms, sunflower hearts and cat or dog food are all good worm substitutes.

We wish you all a fabulous summer, and if you need any more information, or fear your pet may be under the weather please just pop in or call to speak to a member of our team.