



# Culverden Vets

## **Book Appointments 24/7 – Any Branch, Any Time!**

*Need to book in but short on time? Our online booking system makes it easy — day or night!*

*Whether you're with **Tunbridge Wells, Crowborough, or Wadhurst**, you can:*

- ✓ *Book anytime*
- ✓ *Choose your preferred vet*
- ✓ *Pick a time that suits you.*

*Click below*

[culverden.co.uk/request-an-appointment](https://culverden.co.uk/request-an-appointment)



*For information on any of the topics in the articles or any further information please contact us or email [cvg@culverden.co.uk](mailto:cvg@culverden.co.uk)*



*The sun is shining, the flowers are blooming... and your dog won't stop shaking their head! Spring often brings an increase in ear infections in our pets — but why are they so common?*

### **Why Do Pets Get Ear Infections?**

*Dogs and cats have an L-shaped ear canal, which traps debris, wax, and moisture more easily than human ears. When buildup occurs, it creates the perfect environment for bacteria and yeast to grow.*

*Common triggers include:*

- *Allergies*
- *Water trapped in the ear*
- *Grass seeds or foreign bodies*
- *Ear mites*

*Breeds with floppy ears, narrow canals, or lots of ear hair are more prone.*

### **How Are They Diagnosed?**

*Typical signs include head shaking, scratching, redness, discharge, odour & pain.*

*We examine the ear with an **otoscope** and often perform an ear cytology to identify the type of infection and guide treatment.*

### **What Happens If Left Untreated?**

*Untreated infections can lead to:*

- ***Aural haematomas** (painful ear flap swelling from head shaking)*
- *Ruptured ear drum*
- *Middle ear infection causing head tilt, balance issues, or facial paralysis*

*Ear infections are common but very treatable — especially when caught early. If your pet is showing symptoms, please book an appointment promptly.*



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### *Consulting times Vets Branches*

Tunbridge Wells 018926520296	Monday-Friday 9am-12pm, 2:30-4:30pm, 5-6:30pm Saturday 8:30am-12pm
Crowborough 01892661650	Monday-Friday 9am-12pm, 2:30-4:30pm, 5-6:30pm Saturday 8:30am-12pm
Wadhurst 01892782382	Monday-Friday 9am-12pm, 2:30-4:30pm, Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 5-6:30pm

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## **Painkillers use in Pets:**



One of the most important factors in our pets' quality of life is living without pain.

Thankfully, vets have a range of pain-relief options to help keep our pets comfortable and active.

Pain relief may be needed short-term for muscle strains/injuries, or longer-term for older pets with arthritis. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are commonly prescribed and can be very effective at managing pain and inflammation.

As with all medications, long-term use of NSAIDs can occasionally cause side effects. These may include stomach upsets and, in some cases, effects on the kidneys or liver. For this reason, we recommend regular blood tests for pets on long-term NSAID treatment, particularly as they get older.

Blood testing is a simple procedure that can usually be done during a six-monthly medication check. This allows us to tailor treatment appropriately and continue pain relief safely. Regular monitoring helps ensure your pet remains comfortable and healthy giving you peace of mind.

Please contact the practice if you would like to discuss a range of pain relief options for your pet.



## **Eye Problems in Pets – When to Seek Help**

*Your pet's eyes should be clear, bright, and comfortable. Eye issues can worsen quickly, so knowing what to look for is key to protecting their eyesight.*

### **Case Study – Olive the Labrador**

*Olive, a young labrador, was brought in with a painful eye. Initially diagnosed with a minor ulcer, her eye worsened over a few days due to infection. With aggressive treatment and specialist care, Olive's eye fully healed within weeks, now showing no ongoing issues*

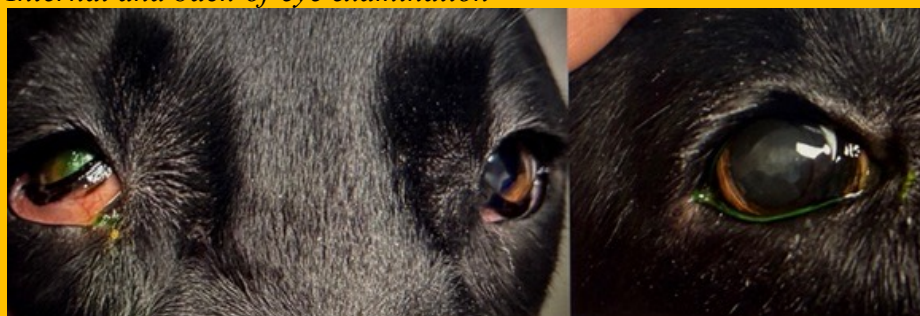
### **Signs Your Pet Needs an Eye Check:**

- ***Discharge or tearing*** – yellow, green, bloody, or crusty
- ***Eye discomfort*** – squinting, blinking, rubbing, or third eyelid covering the eye
- ***Appearance changes*** – redness, cloudiness, swelling, or change in eye size
- ***Behaviour changes*** – bumping into things or light sensitivity

**Seek urgent care for sudden eye pain, trauma, a blue/cloudy eye, or symptoms that don't improve in 24 hours.**

*Our vets may perform a thorough eye exam, including:*

- *Tear production checks*
- *Staining for scratches/ulcers*
- *Eye pressure measurement*
- *Internal and back-of-eye examination*



• *Olive's eye before treatment*

*Olive's eye after*

*If your pet's eyes don't look normal or you have concerns, contact us promptly. Early intervention can save sight and prevent pain.*

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