



CASTLE VETS PETS

Newsletter – August 2023

Tel: 01566 772211 | www.castleveterinarygroup.co.uk



Polite Request

If your cat has an appointment with us, we ask that you bring them in a secure carrier. Please ensure that the carrier is not broken and that all the locking mechanisms are in working order. The best type of carrier can be cleaned easily with solid sides, a top and front opening and can be taken apart from the middle. This allows the cat to be examined whilst still in the carrier, or to be lifted out gently rather than pulled or tipped out which will upset the cat. A cardboard box is no match for a determined cat!

If you do not own a suitable cat carrier you can hire one from the practice. We ask for a £25 deposit which will be refunded to you on return of the carrier.



International Cat Day

This year, International Cat Day is on August 8th. The theme this year is all about the importance of play with your cat. Just five minutes a day can really benefit your cats mental and physical health.



Through play your cat is able to perform predatory behaviours like stalking, pouncing, chasing and biting in a safe manner. All cats are hardwired to chase and hunt, so these behaviours are essential to meet their needs as a species. Much like their wild ancestors,

domestic cats are specialised solitary hunters. A domestic pet cat will still retain a natural motivation to hunt despite being well fed by us humans.

In the wild, cats will continue to hunt even if they are not hungry. They know that it is better to be safe than sorry especially when many hunting attempts may be unsuccessful. As a result of this, cats are incredibly opportunistic. If they encounter prey, even by accident, they will switch to predatory mode in an instant. Even an elderly cat can instantly switch into play mode if you move a toy mouse in front of them.

Playing with indoor cats is especially important particularly if their only outlet for predatory behaviour is through toys. If you want to avoid your hands and feet becoming unwanted targets, especially from younger cats or kittens, regular play is essential.

Owners of outdoor cats may be concerned that encouraging predatory behaviour through play may lead to their cats hunting more. Researchers from the University of Exeter have discovered that this is in fact not the case. Studies have found that the amount of prey a cat captures can be reduced by 25% when owners play with their feline friend for 5-10 minutes per day with a toy mouse or wand toy.



Not only does regular play help to reduce hunting behaviour it also encourages exercise, reduces problem behaviours and strengthens the human animal bond.

Anxious Dog Clinics

What are anxious dog clinics?

For some dogs a visit to the vets can be a very stressful experience. Our anxious dog clinics are tailored specifically for those who really struggle with anxiety within a veterinary setting. This means while some things that we do in an anxious dog clinic may translate to other situations in life, these clinics are only to help with building your dog's confidence in the Veterinary practice.

We work on slowly building your dog's confidence around the practice and with people within the practice too! This is achieved by using the combined processes known as desensitisation and counterconditioning. Using these behaviour modification techniques, we can start to slowly expose your dog to triggers at a level they are able to cope with, replacing a negative response with something more positive (a treat/toys/praise). Of course, this process is all gradual and we proceed at a pace suitable for the dog.



We offer these clinics at a price of £33 for 6 sessions. After an initial assessment, we can help you to set goals for your dog on what we would like to achieve within each timeframe and slowly work towards these.

If you think that this is something that may benefit your dog, contact us on 01566 772211, and ask to speak to Tanya or Katie for more information.