

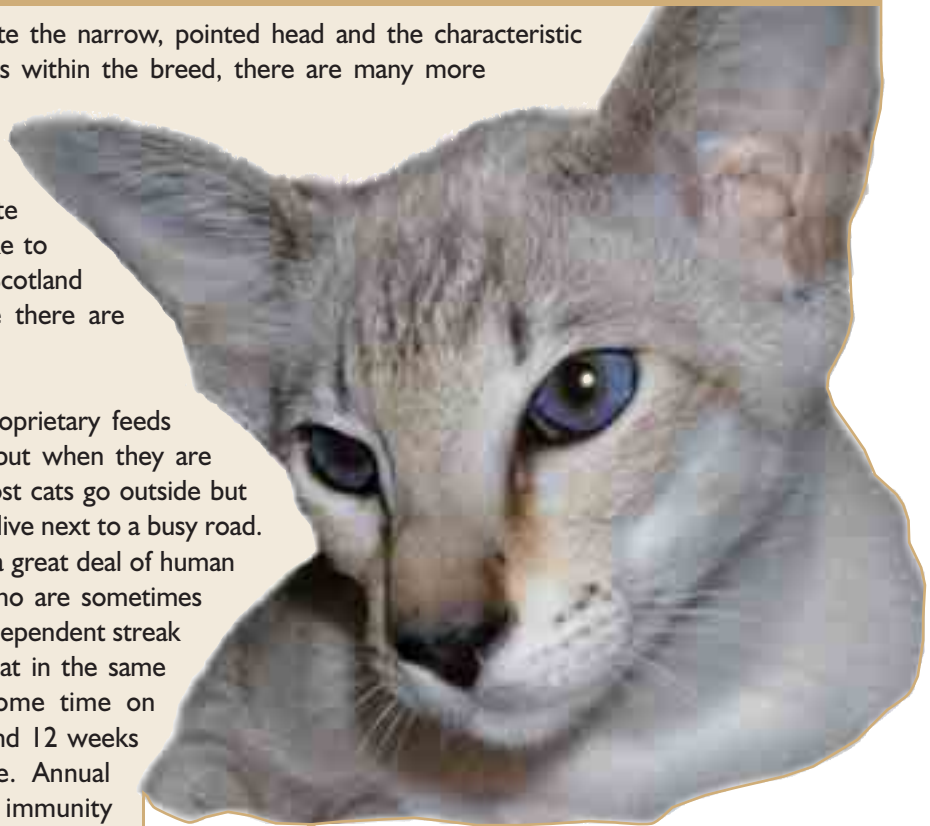
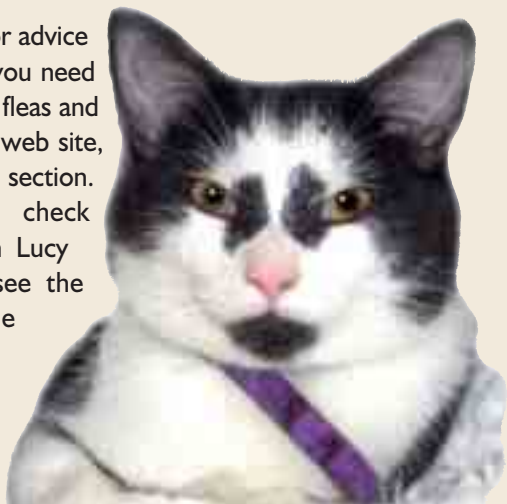
Cats

Here you can see a pedigree Siamese cat. Note the narrow, pointed head and the characteristic colour shading. While there are several colours within the breed, there are many more colours to see in cats generally. Most pet cats tend not to be pedigree cats and are often referred to as “moggies” – just like the unusually marked black and white cat here. Note the flatter, more rounded face. If you would like to see many pedigree cats, look out for the N-E Scotland Cat Show, held in Caird Hall, Dundee where there are several hundred to see!

Cats are easy to keep and there are many proprietary feeds suitable for them. They tend not to overeat, but when they are allowed to, they usually do it in grand style! Most cats go outside but some are happy as house cats – especially if you live next to a busy road. They are affectionate animals and usually enjoy a great deal of human contact, though there are some exceptions, who are sometimes stubborn and like things done their way! This independent streak is what charms many cat owners. A dog and cat in the same home will become friends – it just takes some time on occasions! Kittens should be vaccinated at 9 and 12 weeks (or later) and neutered at 6 months of age. Annual vaccination boosters are necessary to keep immunity effective. Many people now have their cats identified using a microchip, so that if they are picked up if lost, they can always be identified and their owner found. We do the same with lots of pups nowadays, as it is much cheaper than it used to be.

Most cats who go out will hunt and the mouse is the commonest victim. They are often infected with tapeworms as a result of this and need to be de-wormed at least twice yearly or every 3 months if they hunt a lot. We now have a new easy total wormer in the form of a liquid which goes on the back of cat's neck – only from Vets and it kills all worm types in cats. As they are very territorial, cats often get into fights, which can lead to infections or abscesses as well as making it easy to pick up fleas from a visiting stray. To avoid fleas, apply a long lasting flea treatment once a month. This is completely effective, but beware of cheaper pet-shop look-alikes which work poorly and end up costing you more. Most fleas on dogs are cat fleas.

Call Parkside for advice or find out all you need to know about fleas and worms on our web site, under the Pets section. You can also check them out with Lucy and Banjo – see the back page article



Go to our web site and join our e-club by filling out your e-mail address and receive FREE monthly news, information and offers from Parkside. To get things rolling, we will have a prize draw every month for new members. Win a bottle of fizzy! You can follow the e-Club link from our home page at www.parksidevets.com

Stick Injuries

Dogs often run after sticks or even run with sticks in their mouths. Occasionally the end of a stick can hit the ground when the dog is running at speed and this forces the stick to the back of the dog's throat and often penetrates here. If a splinter (or worse) breaks off, then this acts like a foreign body and creates massive swelling and scarring in the subsequent weeks.

For this reason, if you have a dog which you suspect has a stick injury, always have this checked. The risks are so great with these injuries, that we always anaesthetise the dog involved and carefully examine the mouth and throat, where we often find wounds.

These must be searched to look for pieces of wood which may have broken off, and then the wound is sutured closed. Antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs are needed post operatively. So, avoid these potential problems with a proper investigation.