



1. surgery ['sɜːdʒəri] UK, office ['fɪs] US
2. cage [keɪdʒ]
3. kitten ['kɪtən]
4. Elizabethan collar [i,lɪzə,bɪ:θən 'kɒlə], e-collar ['iː ,kɒlə]
5. scales [skeɪlz] UK, scale [skeɪl] US
6. medicine cabinet ['medsən ,kæbɪnət]
7. budgie ['bʌdʒi] ifml.
8. kennels ['kenəlz]
9. waiting room ['weɪtɪŋ ru:m]
10. puppy ['pʌpi]
11. latex gloves ['leɪteks glʌvz]
12. prescription [prɪ'skrɪpʃən]
13. examination table [ɪg,zæmɪ'neɪʃən ,teɪbəl]
14. trolley ['trɒli] UK, cart ['kɑ:t] US
15. surgical mask [sɜːdʒɪkəl 'mɑːsk]
16. syringe [sɪ'rɪndʒ]
17. pet carrier ['pet ,kæriə]

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## VOCABULARY

# At the vet's

*Do you have a pet? If so, you will be familiar with some of the situations described on this page.*

*ANNA HOCHSIEDER presents language to talk about going to the vet's.*

**MEDIUM PLUS**

### All in a day's work

Polly is a **veterinary surgeon**. Here, she describes her work at a **veterinary practice** in south London.

Most of our **patients** are dogs or cats, but we also **treat** other **small animals**, such as **pet rabbits**, **tortoises**, **birds** and even **fish**.

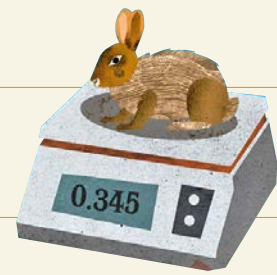
Before the **surgery** opens at 8 am., the **nurses** feed our **inpatients** and clean out the **kennels** and **cages**. The **waiting room** is always full, but not all our patients are **sick**. Our work involves **preventive**

**health care**, such as giving **pet owners** advice on **nutrition**, **hygiene**, **worming**, **flea treatment** and other forms of **parasite control**. People bring their **pets** for **dental check-ups**, **vaccinations** or to have them **microchipped** or **spayed** (also called **neutered**). We also **perform** more complex **surgery**, but some of our patients have to **be referred to a specialist**.

There's only one thing I don't like about my job: telling people that their beloved pet will have to **be put down**. But it's all in a day's work.

**PRACTICE**

Now try the following exercises to practise vocabulary you might need at the vet's.



Exercise 1	E
Cross out the word or phrase in each line that does not match the others.	
A. cabinet   cage   kennel   pet carrier	
B. nurse   pet   specialist   vet	
C. budgie   kitten   puppy   trolley	
D. neutering   vaccination   waiting room   worming	

Exercise 2	A
Complete definitions A–D with the words from the list.	
<b>Elizabethan collar   parasite   syringe   tortoise</b>	
A. A(n) _____ is a small animal or plant that lives in or on another animal or plant and feeds on it.	
B. A(n) _____ is a reptile with a hard round <u>shell</u> on its back that lives on land and moves very slowly.	
C. A(n) _____ is a needle fitted to a plastic tube, used for <u>injecting</u> drugs or <u>drawing</u> blood from a body.	
D. A(n) _____ is a plastic <u>cone</u> worn around the neck by a cat or dog to stop it from scratching or licking wounds.	

Exercise 3	M
Match the problems described by pet owners (A–E) to the vet's responses (1–5).	
A. We don't want our cat to have any more kittens.	1. When did you last have it wormed?
B. I think our dog may be overweight.	2. You should have it vaccinated.
C. I'm worried my cat might run away.	3. You should have it spayed.
D. My dog has had <u>diarrhoea</u> for several days.	4. We can give you nutritional advice.
E. What can I do to protect my cat against <u>cat flu</u> ?	5. Have you considered having it micro-chipped?

Exercise 4	A
Look at the last sentence in the text on page 46 and choose the best answer to this question: What is the meaning of the idiom "all in a day's work"?	
A. A particular activity takes no more than one day to finish.	
B. A particular job consists of only one activity.	
C. A particular activity is part of your job and therefore must be done.	



<b>cat flu</b> ['kæt flu:] • Katzenschnupfen	<b>diarrhoea</b> [ˌdaɪə'riə] • Durchfall	<b>shell</b> [ʃel] • hier: Panzer
<b>cone</b> [kəʊn] • hier: kegelförmiger Kragen	<b>draw</b> [draʊ] • hier: abnehmen	

**Answers**

- A. cabinet (the other words refer to containers in which animals are kept)  
B. pet (the other words refer to people)  
C. trolley (the other words refer to animals)  
D. waiting room (the other words refer to activities carried out by a vet)
- A. parasite  
B. tortoise  
C. syringe  
D. Elizabethan collar
- A–3; B–4; C–5; D–1; E–2
- C

**"Surgery" and "surgeons"**

- In British English, a **surgery** (countable noun) is a place where a doctor, dentist or vet sees his or her patients. The American word for this is **office**.
- Surgery** (uncountable noun) is medical treatment in which a doctor cuts open a person's or animal's body — in other words, an operation.
- A **surgeon** is someone who is trained to perform surgery.
- In formal British English, a **veterinary surgeon** is a doctor who treats animals. In American English, the usual term is **veterinarian**. But in spoken language, the more common word is **vet**.