

**Welcome to the Summer Edition of the Vale Veterinary
Centre Small Animal Newsletter**

Summer pests.....

The return of long sunny days is a welcome change for most of us, but with it comes increasing risks of some parasites affecting our pets....

Fleas breed rapidly in warm weather and can rapidly infest both your pet and your home. Fleas cause skin irritations and infections and even anaemia in severe cases. To add insult to injury fleas will bite pet owners too!

Ticks are also present in greater numbers in the summer months, they are especially prevalent in woodland and heathland. Ticks can cause 'tick bite reactions' in your pets skin but more importantly can spread serious diseases such as Lyme disease.

Along with lungworm, ear mites, mange mites and worms - it can seem an impossible task to keep your pets healthy.....but careful selection of the right products will keep parasites to a minimum. Come into the surgery and discuss your pet's requirements today!

See overleaf for advise about keeping your dogs cool this summer.....



STAFF NEWS

Recently we welcomed new receptionist Meghann Cross who joins our Cullompton reception team.

Congratulations to receptionist Laura Dickson who had a baby girl in April, we wish her and her baby, Olive, all the very best.

We are delighted to announce that Marie Heald, one of our Small Animal Vet team will be returning to work in July following her maternity leave.

Sharon's going on a trek....see end of page 2 for more details.....

And don't forget your bunny...

Rabbits need regular treatment for internal parasites such as **Encephalitozoon cuniculi**, which can cause many signs including paralysis, head tilt, collapse, incontinence, eye problems and in severe cases can even be fatal. **The good news is prevention is Easy - just give your rabbit worming paste 2-4 times a year.**



Ask at the surgery for more details

Fly Strike is a serious condition that affects rabbits, usually during the summer months. Flies are attracted to damp fur, urine and faeces. The flies lay their eggs on or around the rabbit's rear where they hatch into maggots **within a few hours**. Once hatched the maggots start to eat into the rabbits flesh, causing massive damage. Affected rabbits suffer great pain and distress. Overweight & arthritic rabbits, or those prone to dirty bottoms are at most risk from fly strike.

So.....

Check your rabbit's bottom twice a day and if you find maggots then take your rabbit to the vet!!!



What would happen if your pet went walkabout?

Cats and dogs are lost and injured at an alarming rate. One estimate suggests that as many as 230,000 cats are victims of road traffic accidents each year. If one of your pets was brought into the vets – how would we know who they belonged to?

The process of identifying lost or injured pets and reuniting them with their owners is very quick and easy if the animal has a microchip..

A microchip provides a permanent inexpensive form of identification – for life. Once implanted with a microchip, your pet's details will be added to the National Petlog secure database.

Dog wardens, vets, rescue centres and the police are amongst the many people who will be able to scan your pet and read the microchip number to identify you as the owner.

IDENTICHIP YOUR PET IN JUNE FOR ONLY £9.99

June is National Vaccination Month - see overleaf for more details



Heat Stroke in Dogs.....

Every summer at the surgery we have to treat dogs with heat stroke. Symptoms can vary and include heavy breathing or excessive panting, anxiety, bright red gums and drooling, through to collapse and shock or seizures in severe cases. Some dogs seem especially prone to becoming overheated, these include dogs that are overweight, older or have lung or heart disease as their respiratory system is already compromised. Brachycephalic dogs such as Bulldogs, Pugs and Shih Tzus also need to be kept cool for the same reason.

There are some simple rules to follow:

- Never leave your dog in the car in hot weather, even with the windows down. Cars heat up very quickly and can quickly become as hot as an oven. The same applies to conservatories or greenhouses with no shade or ventilation.
- When travelling with your dog in the car – always carry water with you and stop regularly to allow your pet to drink and for 'comfort breaks'!
- Try to walk your dogs at cooler times of day in the early morning or in the evenings.
- Find walks with shade and drinking water. If your dog likes to swim, this is a great way for him to cool down, but beware of stagnant water and pools with algae, which can be dangerous.

What to do if your dog gets overheated?

- Seek veterinary attention immediately as it can be difficult to be sure how serious the situation is and urgent treatment may be needed
- Remove the dog from the hot environment
- Immerse the dog in tepid water, cooling **gradually**, using either a shower spray or similar. Then douse the dog in cool water, particularly the head and neck - avoid using ice-cold water; or cover your dog with wet sheets. Use a fan to increase air flow over the dog as this aids cooling.
- Allow the dog to drink as much water as he wants in small quantities at a time
- Continue to douse the dog in cold water until his breathing starts to settle
- If a dog's temperature is not reduced immediately, heat-stroke can be fatal. Get help from your vet

Keep your dog cool this summer.....



June 2009

Are your pet's vaccinations up to date? If not then we can help.....

The Vale Veterinary Group are participating in National Vaccination Month and have a special offer which lasts until the end of June 2009. We are offering massive discounts of up to 50% if your pet needs to restart its vaccination course. This offer is available for dogs, cats and rabbits. In order to take advantage of this offer you can visit www.vaccinationmonth.co.uk to print off a voucher which will entitle you to this concession. If you do not have internet access, we can do this for you - please let us know.

Call us now for more information on 01884 35558

Remember if you are planning to put your dog or cat into a boarding kennels/cattery this summer, you need to make sure their vaccines are up to date

AND FINALLY.....

Sharon Wetherell, who works here at The Vale, is taking part in a sponsored trek to Machu Picchu in Peru during September. She is trying to raise as much money as possible by the end of June for **DOGS FOR THE DISABLED**. Any sponsorship or donations would be very gratefully received.

Sharon and her trek partner Tace Daniels (who used to be a veterinary nurse at the practice) are also hosting a **'Summer Shindig Charity Ball on Saturday 4th July** at Cullompton Rugby Club to raise funds. Tickets are only £20 per person (group discount available – Book 8 tickets and get for the price of 6 – only £15 per person). This will include a buffet and live entertainment. There will also be a prize draw to include a weeks free accommodation in a luxury villa in Florida!

Please call Sharon on 01884 32228 to pledge money or buy tickets for the ball!

We wish Sharon and Tace all the best and hope they can raise 'loads a money' for this fantastic cause.



www.dogsforthe-disabled.org