



Welcome to the summer edition of our quarterly newsletter. Parasite season has begun! Tick numbers are increasing and fleas are becoming more abundant. With the weather getting warmer, this is sure to get worse! In this edition we focus on ticks. But don't forget fleas and ticks are worm carriers so ensure you keep up to date with worm treatment! We hope you enjoy receiving these e-newsletters, of course you may unsubscribe here if you prefer not to.

Fly Strike

Flystrike is often associated with rabbits and sheep – however, all animals can be effected. We often see dogs and cats throughout the summer that are infested with maggots.

Flystrike is where flies are attracted to the animal for various reasons, an open wound or a dirty bottom for example. Elderly or overweight animals are more at risk as they are less mobile and unable to groom themselves.

Through the summer animals should be checked daily for signs of fly strike.

In rabbits, flies are attracted to their rear end and lay their eggs on the fur. The eggs hatch and maggots begin to eat any faeces stuck to the fur and quickly move on to eating the rabbits flesh.

Maggots can be hard to see through the fur, but they work quickly and if not caught soon enough and in severe cases the kindest and often only option is euthanasia.

The best treatment for this is PREVENTION.

- Check bottoms daily for soiled fur
- Fly proof hutches and runs
- Apply a fly protection such as Rear Guard which protects them for 10weeks
- Keep hutches and runs clean from urine and faeces



Keeping Cool This Summer

We might all cross our fingers for a long hot summer, but dogs don't cope as well as us with the heat.

Factors effecting possible over heating include:

- Too much exercise on a hot day.
- Being overweight.
- A heavy double coat.
- A black coat.
- Humidity, reducing the effectiveness of panting
- Muzzles — dogs can't pant as efficiently while wearing one.
- Age — like humans, elderly and younger dogs are less effective at regulating body temperature
- A short nose.
- Previous experiences of heatstroke.
- Heart or respiratory disorders.
- Dehydration.



Heatstroke symptoms

- Initial restlessness, barking and whining, followed by:
- Rapid heart rate and excessive panting, which becomes laboured with drooling, followed by:
- Struggling to breathe, dark red gums and glassy eyes.
- The rise in body temperature may lead to cell death in the brain, seizures, coma and death.

How to deal with heatstroke – Place a cool wet towel over their body and **call a vet immediately**. Don't hose or drench them in cold water as this can cause shock.

Cool Treats

Kongs are great for preparing cool treats for dogs. They can be filled with wet food or water and then frozen. Dogs have great fun with these!

Ice cubes can be given in moderation and always supervised. Do not use ice if you think your dog is suffering with heat stroke. To make it more interesting you can add small amounts of stock to the water, not too much as it can be quite salty.

Walk dogs at dusk and dawn, avoid taking them out in the middle of the day when temperatures soar.

NEVER LEAVE YOUR DOG IN THE CAR ON A WARM DAY

Even when the temperature outside does not feel too hot, inside the car it can **double**. Dogs really do **DIE** in hot cars

Last summer, our vet Geoff Smith wanted to see just how hot cars can get when left in the shade with the windows open, so he sat inside one for 30minutes...it's quite alarming just how hot it gets. Watch what happened here <https://youtu.be/D6Wgv7C8LRM>



We all know the importance of protecting our skin from sun damage, but did you know that we need to protect our pets too?

Dogs and cats with white areas of thin fur need to be protected. We recommend a factor 50 children's sun cream.

Read all about [Matilda](#) and her operation to remove her sun damaged ear tips.

Matilda story to link here:

<http://www.senlacvets.co.uk/index.php?id=306>



'Like' us on Facebook for lots of up to date advice and regular competitions!

Our latest competitions gave away FREE goody bags for dogs and cats, including toys, shampoo and treats!

Too good to miss!

Can this tick go with the tick project article





Big Tick Project

Ticks are blood sucking external parasites that can be picked up from the countryside, but also in your garden or local park. Tick saliva contains an anaesthetic; so your dog will not feel the bite and neither will you! Ticks can spread a number of diseases which can be a serious risk to you and your family.

In recent years, damp summers and mild winters have allowed tick populations to increase and remain active for longer than usual. High tick densities can cause numerous problems for dogs and result in serious disease risk.

Bristol University are working with MSD animal health and veterinary practices across the country to record the spread and abundance of ticks feeding on dogs in the UK, and to assess the prevalence of tick borne diseases.

We are aiming to collect as many ticks as possible from dogs and complete a very short questionnaire to find out about the type of environments that they have been exposed to and where the ticks are coming from.

Successful flea and tick control and prevention not only removes the nuisance of these parasites, but it is essential to reduce the risk of transmission of these diseases.

Bravecto is a chewable tablet which will *kill* ticks within 12 hours and *kills* fleas within 8 hours, this rapid onset means there is less risk of disease transmission. Bravecto also lasts for 12 weeks and if you buy 3 tablets you get the fourth **FREE**.

Call one of our nurses if you find a tick on your pet or for more information on the Big Tick Project and how to protect your dog

It's BBQ time!

There's nothing better on a warm sunny day, than a nice barbeque.

One wouldn't expect there to be many dangers associated, however we often end up operating on dogs who have eaten corn on the cob! Yes, it may look harmless, but the centre of the cob does not disintegrate very quickly and even seemingly small piece can get stuck in the guts and have to be removed surgically.

If you think your dog may have eaten a corn on the cob, please contact us as soon as possible.

Please beware when walking in the woods that there may be adders lurking. We have already seen a suspected adder bite this year.

The toxin produced by Adders is primarily vascular and can cause tissue necrosis, however sometimes it can cause secondary kidney damage.

For this reason we would urge you to bring your pet to the surgery as soon as possible if bitten or a bite is suspected.

There are not always puncture wounds visible, so immediate or rapid swelling and pain would be the first noticeable reactions.



*lungworm link to www.itsajungle.co.uk/parasite-guide/lungworm

Please microchip your pets!!

We cannot stress the importance of a microchip. Pets can wander, get loose or be stolen, collars with tags can be easily lost or removed. If that were to happen, how would anyone know you were their owner? A microchip is just the size of a grain of rice and with one simple injection your details are stored safely.

Did you know? From April 2016 it will be a legal requirement for all dogs in the UK to be microchipped.

Remember to update your details with the national data base if you move house or change your phone number. We have lost track of how many pets have ended up at rescue centres because we could not track down the owners! It's such a shame when we know they are microchipped. This applies if you have rescued or re-homed a pet. Please check who the details are registered to.

A microchip is just £10 and a nurse or vet can microchip your pet while you wait. Book in today!

Are your horse's vaccinations up to date?

It's almost a year since the launch of the Keeping Britain's Horses Healthy campaign (KBHH), which we are backing and hope you have been, too! The aims of the campaign are supported by leading equine and veterinary organisations, such as the Animal Health Trust, The Horse Trust, Veterinary Times and Bailey's Horse Feeds.

One of the focuses of KBHH is encouraging vaccination against infectious disease and explaining the role vaccination has in protecting the individual horse and also the health of the population in general (herd immunity). Now the better weather has arrived, you will be getting out and about more with your horse, so this is a good time to check that your horse's vaccinations are up to date.

There have been outbreaks of flu recently in the North of England and Scotland so make sure your horse doesn't add to the flu statistics. Call the practice to talk to us about vaccination, your horse's vaccination history, local disease risk and other ways we can work together to make sure that your horse stays on top form this season.

We will be running a vaccine amnesty from the middle of July for 1 month. If your horse's vaccinations (Tetanus, flu or both) are out of date and you require a new primary course – the second vaccine of the course will be free! (visit charges will apply to both). Keep an eye out for further details at the practice and on our facebook page!

If you keep your horse on a yard or you manage a yard you may be interested in our latest yard initiative, which we are running in conjunction with the KBHH campaign. Every yard is different and so it is important that a tailor-made programme is developed, covering aspects such as preventing the entry of infectious respiratory disease and the key steps that yard managers and their clients should take to prevent or control an outbreak.

If you would like advice and guidance on implementing an effective yard policy, call the practice and we will be pleased to assist you. We have a range of materials that are available to use and all materials can be tailor made to suit your individual yard.

For more information about vaccination, local disease risk or developing/reviewing your yard policy to cover infectious disease or other matters call us at the practice.

