the latest

news from maven veterinary care

maven veterinary care
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Summer survival guide!

Summer is finally here, bringing long sunny days, warm evenings and time outdoors – but the heat can be tough on our pets. The warmer months can pose serious risks, so it's important to take steps to keep animals comfortable, healthy and safe.



Stay Cool: Heat can be dangerous for dogs, cats and small pets. Walk dogs early in the morning or later in the evening, and never leave them unattended in cars. Paddling pools and frozen treats can help them cool off, and water should always be available. Overweight, thick-coated and brachycephalic dogs are the most vulnerable to heat stroke.

Guinea pigs and rabbits can also overheat easily. Always provide plenty of shade and cool water, ideally in a bowl, and move their housing to a cooler area during extreme heat.



Ear tip of a cat showing early cancerous changes

Sunburn: Thinly haired or white coated pets are at risk of sunburn, especially if they are dedicated sun worshippers! White cats are particularly vulnerable to developing skin cancers on their ears and noses, so pay close attention to these areas. To protect your pet, you can apply high factor sun lotion specifically designed for pets (avoid human sunscreen).

Grass awns are another summer problem – the grass awns of the meadow grasses are easily trapped in the coats of pets. They then migrate and become lodged in a variety of places including the ears and between the toes. It is always a good idea to groom your pets regularly to keep a close eye out for grass awns.

Enjoy summer with your pets!
For more advice, contact our practice team; we're always happy to help.

Looking after your new arrival!

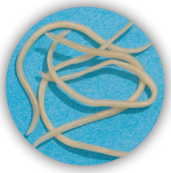


Introducing a new pet into your family is an exciting and rewarding experience – but it also comes with important responsibilities. Alongside choosing leads, collars, bedding and toys, it's essential to plan ahead to keep your new companion happy and healthy. Here's a simple guide to help your pet get off to the best possible start!

Vaccinations: Dogs, cats and rabbits all require vaccinations, protecting them against potentially fatal infectious diseases. Our team will be able to talk you through the exact schedule of vaccines required. Regular booster vaccinations, combined with a health check, are the best way of protecting your pet, plus at the same time we can keep a watchful eye out for any problems.



Microchipping is a legal requirement for dogs over eight weeks old and is now also a legal requirement for cats in England (and it is highly recommended for cats in general). It provides a permanent form of identification, helping ensure you can be reunited with your pet if they are ever lost or injured. We also recommend microchipping for other pets, including rabbits.



Worming: Puppies and kittens can acquire roundworms from their mothers early in life, making prompt treatment vital. As they grow, they remain at risk from roundworms and tapeworms, while dogs may also be affected by lungworm. Regular worming treatments are an important part of ongoing care.

Flea Control: It's very common for young pets to arrive with fleas. An early check-up allows us to recommend the most effective treatments for your pet, as well as advice on managing fleas within your home environment.

Neutering: Cats are typically neutered from around six months of age if they are not intended for breeding. For dogs, the decision is more individual and depends on factors such as breed, age and lifestyle. Our team is happy to discuss the best approach for your pet

Socialisation is another important topic. The early experiences a puppy or kitten has of people and their surroundings has a huge impact on their behaviour and personality for the rest of their life. Please ask us for further information on socialising your pets. Also – please let us advise on a range of other topics such as **dental care**, **pet insurance** and **nutrition** to name just a few!

Dog photo: Warren Photographic

August Bank Holiday Opening Hours

The August Bank Holiday is nearly here, and we hope you're looking forward to a relaxing long weekend with your pets. While we hope you won't need us, please be reassured that support is available if you do.

If you have any concerns, you can contact us as normal on **0208 337 2214**. You'll reach a member of the Maven team, or if we're closed, your call will be redirected to our trusted out of hours emergency provider, **Vets Now**.

Our opening hours over the August Bank Holiday are:

Saturday 29th August ··· **OPEN** as usual, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Sunday 30th August ··· **OPEN** as usual, 10:00am – 2:00pm

Monday 31st August ··· **CLOSED**

While we're closed on Monday, emergency care will be provided by **Vets Now**, so help is always at hand should you need it.

We'll be back to **normal opening hours from 8:00am on Tuesday 1st September**.

Thank you for your continued trust in us, and we wish you and your pets a safe and happy Bank Holiday weekend

Our opening hours
Monday – Friday 8am-8pm
Saturday 9am-4pm
Sunday 10am-2pm
In an Emergency day or night – call us on 0208 337 2214

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Getting to the root of the problem!



Did you know that dental disease is a very common, but often *hidden* problem in our pets? In fact, by the age of just three years old, the majority of pets are already suffering from some form of dental disease.

The sad thing is that most pets start life with a healthy set of teeth and gums, but over time, painful dental problems can easily develop. Poor dental health is not only uncomfortable and can lead to tooth loss, but infections can also spread throughout the body and potentially cause significant organ damage.

A healthy mouth typically has bright white teeth and pink (or pigmented) gums. However, over time, the accumulation of a biofilm of bacterial plaque on the surface of the teeth leads to inflammation of the gums – a condition called **gingivitis**. At this stage, you might notice reddened gums, bad breath, and some tartar build-up on the tooth surface. If this continues, the tartar will inflame the gums further and allow bacteria to penetrate below the gum line, progressively destroying the periodontal ligament (the fibrous structure that anchors the tooth to the bone). This painful condition is known as **periodontitis** and, if left untreated, can result in tooth loosening and eventual tooth loss.



Cats may also be affected by gingivitis, but they can additionally suffer from **tooth resorptive lesions**. In these cases, the enamel is lost, exposing the very sensitive dentine beneath. There is often an area of bright red gum over the affected site, which can hide a painful cavity within the tooth. Despite this, cats often show very few outward signs of dental pain.

Regular dental check-ups (as part of the booster visit) are a key part of monitoring for dental disease. The good news is that if dental problems are identified at an *early* stage, a combination of a scale and polish and ongoing home care can make a big difference to your pet's oral health. With a clean mouth, daily teeth cleaning is a great way to try to prevent future dental disease. However not all pets are amenable to this and there are many alternative products available, which we would be happy to discuss with you.

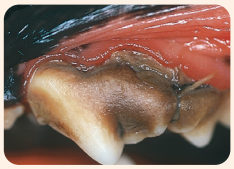
Gallery of dental conditions in pets



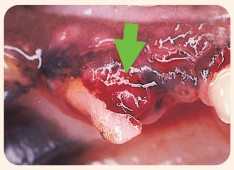
Healthy mouth with bright white teeth and pink (or pigmented) gums



Gingivitis with swollen and inflamed gum margins.



Periodontitis with redness and recession of the gum margin.



Tooth resorptive lesion in a cat: Typical lesion (arrowed). The tooth is progressively destroyed and is usually very painful.



Scale and Polish: Removing the tartar using an ultrasonic scaler, followed by polishing is a very effective form of treatment and should ideally be followed by effective home care.

Pet Insurance – is your pet protected?



Pet insurance is something that we advise all our owners consider for their animals. We know that vet bills are often unexpected and can mount up over time, so having a good policy will really combat the worry of being able to afford their care; whether it is a one-off misadventure or a longer-term illness.

There are several different kinds of policies; '12 month' ones will only cover a condition for the first year after diagnosis, whereas 'life long' will continue to pay for treatment for as long as is necessary. Some will pay up to a certain amount per condition, whereas others are unlimited. So you really need to understand the policy before taking it out.

With appropriate pet insurance, we can hopefully ensure that any treatment decisions are made on the basis of need rather than cost. If you would like any further information on the benefits of insuring your pets, please don't hesitate to ask a member of the practice team!



We naturally tend to think of **surgical emergencies** (such as this sock which was removed at great expense from the small intestines of a dog) as the main reason for insurance. However, many **medical conditions**, such as **heart disease**, **skin problems or diabetes…** to name just a few, can be equally costly to treat – especially so if they are life-long conditions.



CAT FRIENDLY CORNER
SUMMER IS HERE!

While many cats love nothing more than basking in the sunshine, warm weather can put them at risk of heatstroke. Cats are usually good at finding shady spots, but there are plenty of ways you can help keep them cool, comfortable and well hydrated.

HELP YOUR CAT STAY HYDRATED

- Cats get much of their water naturally from wet food or prey, but extra drinking is important in hot weather
- Offer multiple water bowls around your home and, if appropriate, in the garden
- Keep water bowls separate from food, as cats instinctively avoid drinking near their meals
- Many cats prefer running water – a supervised dripping tap or a water fountain can help encourage them to drink more
- Some cats enjoy rainwater, so collecting clean rainwater in a bucket or water butt in the garden can be a great option

PROVIDE COOL, SHADY SPACES

- Create shaded areas outside using trees, plants, sunshades or even patches of damp soil
- During very hot weather, keep your cat indoors during peak sunshine hours
- Cooling mats designed for pets can be placed in your cat's bed or favourite resting spots to help them stay comfortable

KEEP GROOMING UP TO DATE

- Excess fur can trap heat, making cats feel hotter
- Daily brushing helps remove loose fur and keeps your cat feeling more comfortable

OFFER A REFRESHING SUMMER TREAT

- Try freezing the water from a tin of spring water tuna into small moulds
- You can also freeze your cat's favourite lick e lick style treat for a cooling snack on hot days

If you have any concerns about your cat over the summer months, please don't hesitate to give us a call and speak to one of our friendly team.

By Gemma Hewitt RVN

This Newsletter is provided as an education service to our clients. All news and other items in this newsletter are for information only and should not be treated as a substitute for specific veterinary advice. For all images, the copyright is the property of the photographer.

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