

the latest

news from maven veterinary care



Parasite alert!



As we approach warmer Spring weather it's a good idea to keep up your guard against pesky parasites.

Here we look at two of the main offenders – fleas and ticks.



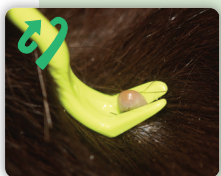
Fleas thrive very well, both in your home and outside in parks and gardens. Here, any flea eggs laying dormant will rapidly hatch into adult fleas, hopping onto passing pets. Flea bites can be itchy for both animals and humans, often causing skin rashes and hair loss.

The best way to prevent fleas is year-round treatment for all your pets with veterinary licensed flea products. Spot-on treatments are ideal for treating your pets, whilst household sprays are great for treating your home.



Ticks are most active through March to October; they live in long grass and woodland and attach themselves to passing pets and also humans. Unlike fleas, ticks are not itchy, but can spread a range of serious tick-borne diseases including Lyme disease, Babesiosis and Ehrlichiosis.

We recommend checking your pets every day (especially after walks) to remove any ticks before they can attach. Ticks that have attached can be removed with



a special tick removal tool. For added protection, we recommend using veterinary licensed products

that work either by repelling the tick from attaching or killing them when they bite.

We are happy to help and advise you on the best form of on flea and tick prevention for your pets!



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 emerging problems.



Worming: It is very important to treat puppies and kittens for **roundworms** since they can acquire these from their mothers early in life. As they grow up, they are susceptible to infection with both **roundworms** and **tapeworms** and will require regular worming. Additionally, **lungworm** is a problem for many dogs.

Fleas: Most puppies and kittens will arrive with a fair number of fleas, so it is a good idea for us to give them a check over on arrival! See our article (left) on treating your pets for fleas.

Pet insurance is also highly recommended, giving you *peace of mind* should unplanned visits for veterinary treatment be required.

Early dental care: Pets have two sets of teeth, and their "milk" teeth progressively fall out from about 12 weeks of age to make way for their adult teeth. If this doesn't happen the corresponding adult tooth may erupt in the wrong direction. This is usually only a problem in dogs and is treated by extracting the retained teeth.



Socialisation is another very 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. We can also advise you on other topics such as **diets and feeding, microchipping** (a legal requirement in puppies and kittens), **neutering**, and much more! We are here to help, so please ask a member of our team for further information on any aspect of caring for your new pet.

Looking after your new pet

Annual Vaccinations

We recommend you regularly vaccinate your pets against the following, infectious diseases:

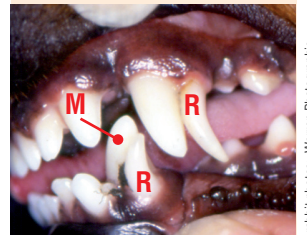
Dogs are routinely vaccinated against: parvovirus, leptospirosis, hepatitis and distemper.

Cats are usually vaccinated against cat flu, panleukopenia, and feline leukemia virus.

Rabbits should be vaccinated against: Myxomatosis and Viral Haemorrhagic Disease. Both diseases are rapidly fatal in rabbits.



Early dental care



R = retained "milk" canine teeth
M = mal-aligned adult canine tooth

Kitten and rabbit photos: Warren Photographic

Easter Opening Times!

We hope you won't need to visit us over the Easter period with your poorly pets, but if you do, we are here. Contact us as normal on **0208 337 2214** and you will be able to speak to one of our Maven Team, or, if we are closed, our out-of-hours emergency provider Vets Now.

Our opening times over the Easter period are:

Good Friday, Friday 18th April ... We are **CLOSED***

Saturday 19th April ... We are **OPEN** as normal 9am – 4pm

Easter Sunday, Sunday 20th April ... We are **OPEN** as normal 10am – 2pm for urgent and emergency appointments only*

Easter Monday, Monday 21st April ... We are **CLOSED***

Normal opening hours will resume from 8am Tuesday 22nd April



*An emergency service will be running with Vets Now

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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609-613 London Road, North Cheam, Surrey, SM3 9DF

Avoiding spring hazards!



Spring is here at last with longer days, longer walks and warmer weather! With this in mind, here are a few seasonal tips to keep your pet safe:

Stick alert! When out on walks, we strongly suggest you avoid throwing sticks for your dog to chase. Sticks are innocuous looking things, but with the right speed and trajectory, they can

become a weapon. Sticks can cause very serious penetrating injuries, plus they are breakable, leaving foreign material behind in a wound some distance from the original entry point. As a result, they are truly awful wounds to deal with. A safer option is using a ball instead – being mindful of getting the right size ball for your dog. It needs to be large enough that your dog isn't at risk of it getting stuck in his throat.

Easter Alert! Easter will soon be upon us and although the sweet treats available for humans are lovely, they can be hazardous for our pets. Dogs are very susceptible to **chocolate** toxicity. The stronger the chocolate (plain being the strongest), the more dangerous it can be and it may cause fatal neurological signs. **Sultanas and raisins** – found in hot cross buns, fruit cakes and the like, are also toxic for your dog. Also beware of any chewing gum or cakes containing the artificial sweetener **xylitol**. This is extremely toxic to dogs. Xylitol toxicity can cause life threateningly low blood sugar levels.



Lily alert! Lilies are an all year round hazard for cats. All parts of the plants are toxic to **cats** and there can be a delay between cats ingesting/licking lilies and the kidney problems that follow. Out in the garden, **spring bulbs** are also toxic to dogs if dug up and eaten.

Finally – we hope you enjoy the spring with your pets. Signs of poisoning can often be quite vague so please contact us at once if you are at all worried.



This is a typical stick injury where the stick has become lodged in the dog's throat – see yellow arrow.



Beware of cakes (including many home made cakes) made with the artificial sweetener xylitol, which is extremely toxic to dogs.

Rabbiting on!



Rabbits can be a wonderful addition to the family. However, despite their small size they do need well thought out housing, diets and companionship. Here we look at some top tips to keep your rabbit healthy.

Housing: Rabbits enjoy company and therefore are best housed together in neutered bonded pairs – usually a male and a female. Their housing should support their needs to hop, run and forage. A hutch isn't really enough as they like plenty of room.

Diets and dentistry: Rabbits have evolved to have continuously growing teeth which, if they are not fed enough fibre, can overgrow (see photo right), leading to dental problems. We suggest a diet composed of: 85% hay or grass, 10% leafy vegetables and about an egg cup full of commercial all-in-one rabbit nuggets.

Vaccination: Rabbits can be vaccinated against Myxomatosis and Viral Haemorrhagic Disease. Both of these can be rapidly fatal. There are vaccines available that give good protection and are recommended for yearly use. Since myxomatosis can be spread by flies and mosquitoes, it is recommended to have indoor rabbits vaccinated as well.

If you would like further information on caring for your rabbit, feeding, dental health and vaccination, please don't hesitate to contact our helpful team.



Misaligned and overgrown incisor (front) teeth

CAT FRIENDLY CORNER

Springtime is finally here!



It is great to have the lighter mornings and evenings again and your cat will be ready to explore in these warmer months. It is extremely important to ensure your cat is now microchipped and your details are kept up to date. Since 2024, it is compulsory to have your cat microchipped. When your cat is microchipped, a small chip is inserted under their skin and it has a unique code of numbers that are linked to your personal details. When this code is scanned with a microchip scanner, your details can easily be obtained from a central data base. This ensures you can quickly be contacted should they ever go missing. Please contact the Practice if your cat needs to have a microchip implanted.

Some additional pre-cautions to make this Spring;

- There are some flowers and plants in Spring which are poisonous to cats. Lilies are particularly toxic and should be kept well away from them. Ingesting, drinking water from the vases, even rubbing up against lilies can risk the pollen getting on to their coat which will then likely be licked off.
- Daffodils are a beautiful Springtime flower but are unfortunately dangerous to our cats. Daffodil bulbs contain crystals that are extremely toxic to cats.
- Tulips, Begonia's, Amaryllis and Chrysanthemum can also cause harm to your cat so please research your plants before bringing them into your home or garden this Spring.
- Springtime is prime time for ticks, fleas and other parasites – ensure your cat is up to date with their routine parasite treatment.
- It is great time of year for Spring cleaning our homes but please be aware some household cleaning products can be hazardous to cats. Any disinfectant that contains benzalkonium chloride can be harmful should our cats ingest this or lick from their coat or paws. Ensure a non-toxic product is used instead and the surface is dried before letting your cat enter this room.

For further guidance on any of these subjects or if you suspect your cat has ingested any of these toxins, please do contact us straight away.

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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