



In this edition!

Page 1 - Sun Safety and Ticks | Page 2 - Microchipping and Dental Disease

Staying safe in the sun

Summer is here, and with the (hopefully!) warmer weather and longer days comes our latest round of tips for keeping your pet safe this season.

Preventing heatstroke and dehydration

- Pets can develop heatstroke (hyperthermia) when high environmental temperatures (like hot rooms, cars and gardens) mean they can no longer regulate their body temperature and it goes over its normal level.
- Symptoms include excessive, unusually fast panting, dark coloured (red or purple) gums and tongue, whining and signs of agitation, excessive thirst and drooling, glassy eyes, faster than normal pulse and heartbeat, high body temperature, staggering, collapsing and seizures.
- Prevent it by avoiding walking your dog during the hottest times of day and skipping vigorous exercise completely – even fit, healthy dogs can suffer heatstroke at temperatures as low as 20C if doing vigorous exercise.
- Provide cool, well ventilated, shaded areas for pets, always give access to fresh water, take water with you on walks and spray down their coat with cool water.
- Avoid car journeys if possible and never leave your dog in a hot car.
- Elderly, obese, brachycephalic and large breed dogs are at higher risk of heatstroke, so consider staying indoors and ensure cool areas are available with ventilation.
- Excess or matted fur can also lead to heatstroke, so keep your pet well-groomed during summer.
- If you think your dog has heatstroke, please contact us immediately. In the meantime, shower or wet your dog with cool (not cold) water.

- Cats can suffer from heatstroke and will show similar signs. Cats don't normally breathe through their mouths, so if they are panting, they have likely been exposed to high temperatures. If you think they may have heatstroke, get them into a cool spot, soak them with cool (not cold water) and contact us immediately.
- Heatstroke is also serious for rabbits, guinea pigs and hamsters. Always give these pets shelter from the sun, especially if confined to cages and runs, with lots of water in bottles and bowls. Look out for any breathing difficulties, faster breathing or seeming unusually sleepy or limp.
- If your pet is showing any signs of heatstroke, contact us immediately.

Water safety

- When introducing dogs to water, opt for a shallow children's paddling pool first, and use a flotation device if they move on to slightly deeper water.
- Watch out for poisonous algae, make sure your dog doesn't drink from standing water and rinse them thoroughly after swimming to remove any bacteria or chemicals.

Sunburn

- White pets and pets with fine, thin or no hair are at greater risk of getting sunburnt, but it's important to protect exposed areas like the ears, nose and tummy on all pets with a pet friendly sun cream.
- Hot pavements can hurt paws! If it feels hot to your hand it will be the same for paws, so walk your dog at cooler times of day, walk them on grass where possible and check and clean their paws regularly.

Ticks

Whether you and your pet are off on holiday or staying at home this summer, you'll want to keep an eye out for ticks!

Ticks are small, eight-legged oval-shaped insects which attach themselves to an animal to feed on their blood.

They can be picked up by your pet when they move through undergrowth or long grass, so you'll want to be careful when walking your dog in these types of areas.

Ticks will embed their mouths onto your pet's skin, and careful removal is required to avoid leaving mouthparts behind and causing irritation or infection. You can use a tick removal tool to do this safely, and we can advise you on the right method if you're not sure.

Prevention is always better than cure when it comes to ticks, so please get in touch for further advice and recommendations for the best preventative products and treatments.



Microchipping

It's compulsory for all dogs over eight weeks old to have a microchip, but did you know that cat microchipping laws are changing soon?

Every pet cat in England, over the age of 20 weeks needs to be microchipped by 10th June 2024. If your cat doesn't have a microchip by this date, you will be given 21 days to get them chipped and avoid a fine of up to £500.

It's nothing to worry about! The procedure is quick and easy and can be done in practice by one of our trained, friendly team members.

If you have any questions or would like to book a microchipping appointment for your pet, please get in touch.



Dental health in dogs and cats

Dental disease is common in dogs and cats, and it's important to take your pet for regular dental check-ups and maintain good dental care at home.

If left untreated, plaque and gum infections can lead to periodontal disease, where deep pockets of infection form under the gumline and teeth eventually become loose.

Symptoms include swollen or bleeding gums, bad breath, discoloured teeth weight loss, excessive chewing, chewing with one side of the mouth, drooling and bleeding from the mouth. If you notice any changes or think your pet might have dental disease, please get in touch.

Other potential dental issues include tooth root abscesses, which can be caused by periodontal disease or infections tracking down the inside of a tooth, and chipped, cracked or worn teeth caused by chewing on hard objects.

The best way to look after your pet's teeth is to take them for regular dental appointments, where we can detect any issues or signs of disease and give you individual advice on dental care.

In between check-ups, it's advisable to brush your cat or dog's teeth regularly with a pet-safe toothpaste. Tooth brushing should be introduced slowly, using positive training methods, to avoid distressing your pet. Please ask our team for help and advice.

To learn more or book a dental check-up for your pet, please get in touch.



Dental disease in rabbits

Dental disease is also common in rabbits. Rabbits' teeth continue to grow for most of their lives. They should wear down with normal chewing action, but poor diets and inherited problems can cause uneven wear, leaving sharp points that can lead to painful sores on the tongue and cheeks.

Symptoms of dental disease in rabbits include runny eyes, reduced appetite, only eating certain foods, pooing less and in smaller amounts, dribbling from mouth, bumps on the face or jaw, sneezing, dandruff and ear problems.

The risk increases as they get older, so it's important to maintain good dental health throughout their life to help prevent it.

Dental disease can often be prevented with the right diet, if started from a young enough age. Unlimited, good-quality hay and grass should make up the majority of your rabbit's diet, alongside small amounts of leafy greens and pellets.

Regular dental check-ups with a vet are a great opportunity to check your rabbit's dental health and detect signs of dental disease. Please get in touch with the practice to learn more or book a dental check-up.