



# 24 hour emergency facilities always covered by our own veterinary surgeons

Town & Country  
Veterinary Group

## Summer Newsletter

24 Hour emergency facilities  
Summer 2016



### Summertime Has Arrived!

Summer has arrived, but while we enjoy the sunshine, please remember to spare a thought for your pets. Here are a few things that will help keep them safe and well:

**Heat** - Always have fresh water available at all times for your pets. Avoid exercise during the heat of the day, stick to early morning and evening walks especially for older or overweight pets with heart problems. Make sure your guinea pig or rabbit also has an adequate shaded area. **Please never leave your pet in a car on a warm day!** The temperature can rise rapidly and a warm car can turn into a sauna quickly causing heat stress and could lead to death. Pets can recover from heat stress but prompt action is essential. If at any time you think your pet is suffering from heat stress move them immediately to a cool area and call your vet.

**Grass seeds** – During walks in the meadows, forests and just around the open fields, grass seeds can be a problem. They can get trapped in dog's ears, or embedded in their paws, or other areas. It is a good idea, after walks, to examine paws and coats.

**Sun burn** – Cats love sun bathing! Please remember cats with white ears and noses are particularly at risk from sun burn and subsequent cancer. The risk is reduced, if you keep them out of the sun, or as odd as it may sound, by applying sunblock to these areas during the hot weather.

**Bee & wasp stings** - Another seasonal problem. As with humans, some pets have an allergic reaction to them, and may require veterinary treatment, if stung.

**Lumps and bumps** - Grooming and regularly stroking your pets is a very important part of pet care - not just because you and your pet will enjoy it, but also to alert you to any ticks, embedded grass seeds, developing lumps, and a host of other issues. If you do find a lump on your pet, there are several possible underlying causes. These include: abscess, bee and wasp stings, hernias (often seen in younger pets) and tumours. Tumours are understandably the most worrying and are either benign which tend to be slow growing and remain in one place, or malignant which can be fast growing, invade the surrounding tissue and have the potential to spread to other parts of the body. If you do find a lump on your pet, it is important that we examine it as soon as possible. Speed is of the essence and a delay in appropriate treatment can be the difference between a small mass that is easily treatable and one that is far more difficult to treat or sadly sometimes untreatable.



So, now is a good time to check your pet over and give us a call if you find anything unusual.

### Looking for a small friendly pet?

If you are looking for a small family pet, guinea pigs are ideal as they are receptive to attention and are daytime active animals. They are also one of the oldest domesticated animals dating back centuries. As with rabbits, a guinea pig's nails and teeth grow continuously and may require clipping. Regular check ups with a vet are recommended as mites and fungal infections can occur. A guinea pig's life span is 4-8 years and they like companionship - a neutered pair or small group of the same sex. A good sized hutch with plenty of bedding and an outside run with tunnels and boxes will be needed as they are flight animals who like to hide.



### How healthy is your pet's teeth?

Bad breath? Drooling? Inflamed or bleeding gums? Yellowish/brown or loose teeth? Difficulty or not eating? Sensitivity or pawing at mouth?

Does your pet suffer any of these symptoms? Did you know that dental problems are one of the most common issue our pets suffer from. It is difficult to look in their mouths and often bad breath is considered normal. Poor dental health can be painful, cause tooth loss and infections can spread leading to other issues. Regularly checking your pet's mouth and routinely cleaning can ensure teeth and gums stay in good condition.

Rabbits in particular have continuously growing teeth, both cheek and incisor teeth can grow as much as 1-2mm per week. Incisor teeth should meet to allow them to wear down as your rabbit chews. If they do not meet they could overgrow past each other and lead to further problems. The cheek teeth are grinding teeth but if they are to become overgrown they could be very sharp lacerating the tongue and cheek, which can be painful for your rabbit. Please contact us today for a dental check up for your pet.



- Banchory: 01330 822648
- Bieldside: 01224 861161
- Kingswells: 01224 749191
- Millburn: 01224 588770
- Rubislaw: 01224 311555
- Westhill: 01224 741685

[www.townandcountryvet.co.uk](http://www.townandcountryvet.co.uk)



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Out of Hours Emergencies:  
01330 822648

**Summer means holiday time!! Are you considering taking your pet on holiday? Or have you planned where your pet will be staying?**

If you are planning to take your pet on holiday get a suitable cat carrier or dog crate and practice using it on short journeys to allow your pet to be accustomed to their surroundings in preparation for longer journeys. Pet passports allows pet owners to take their cats and dogs to other countries and return home without their pet having to go into quarantine. Your pet will need to be microchipped and vaccinated against rabies, other treatments may also be advisable to protect your pet against exotic diseases. Please ask your vet for more details or information can be found at [www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad](http://www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad). We recommend booking an appointment well in advance of your holiday.



There are 3 options if you don't take your pet on holiday: kennels or catteries, home boarding and pet sitters. Please find below our tips:

- If your pet has never stayed at a kennel/cattery before, think about a trial night for one night. This will help your pet to realise that you are coming back.
- Familiarise your cat with their basket, consider putting a few treats inside.
  - If the kennels allows it, take your pet's own bed.
  - Take some of your pet's favourite toys or provide a worn item of clothing to reassure your pet with a familiar scent.
  - Make sure your pet's vaccinations are up to date including kennel cough for dogs and myxomatosis and VHD for rabbits.
  - Get references, insurance details and meet the people that will be caring for your pet in advance.
  - Can they accommodate any special needs?



**Keep your pets worm free!**

**Tapeworm** - lives in the small intestines and segments detach containing eggs which pass out in the faeces. Eggs may be eaten by small rodents and fleas which could lead to the circle of pets re-infecting themselves. Cats catch and eat small rodents and both cats and dogs swallow fleas during their grooming routine.



**Roundworm** - spaghetti like appearance and also live in the small intestines. Adult worms shed thousands of tiny eggs that pass out in the faeces. Cats and dogs get re-infected easily by eating the eggs, children are also at risk if accidentally swallowed.

**Lungworm** - only affects dogs and caused by the parasite *Angiostrongylus vasorum* carried by slugs and snails. Adult lungworms live in pulmonary arteries and the right ventricle of the heart. Symptoms include coughing, fits, blood clotting and lethargy. Many pets may not show obvious signs so be extra vigilant of your dog while exploring parks and gardens. Snail slime trails can also be infected by lungworm eggs.



Contact us for the best advice on worm and flea treatment for your pets.

**Our very own Premier Health Plan**

Town & Country Veterinary Group Premier Health Plan.

Depending on the breed and size of your pet, you pay a regular, monthly payment by direct debit. This covers the cost of the annual vaccination, a six monthly health check, a year's supply of wormer and flea treatment, and up to 15% discount off the cost of some other services and products.

This Health Plan is greatly discounted, amounting to a huge saving over the year and is open to existing and new clients. If you would like any further information please contact us .



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