



# The Veterinary Centre

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# NEWS

## Microchip alert!

Microchipping takes just a few seconds, with a tiny implant only slightly bigger than a grain of rice. Like a normal injection, it is inserted under the skin at the back of the neck. The chip contains a unique code that identifies the pet and the owner. This special code plus all your contact details are held on a central database.



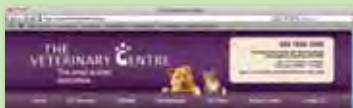
Veterinary practices, the police and animal charities have microchip scanners and routinely scan strays. Should your pet go missing and be handed in as a stray, if they are microchipped, this will give you the best chance of them being reliably identified and returned to you.

So, don't take any chances – make sure your pets are microchipped!



**SUMMER SPECIAL**  
June microchip month  
Identichip only **£12.00**

Don't forget to keep up-to-date with news, information and offers at [www.thevetcentre.co.uk](http://www.thevetcentre.co.uk).



### Practice facilities:

- Consultations by appointment
- Client Parking
- Modern facilities;
- Including Xray
- Ultrasound
- Endoscopy
- Full dental facilities
- Qualified caring staff
- Free Puppy parties
- Free nurse clinics

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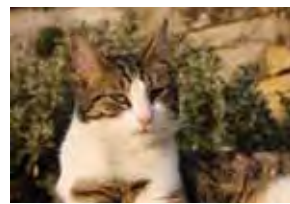
## Pesky parasite problems!



THE summer weather is here at last, but don't forget to be on your guard for two very pesky parasites – fleas and ticks!

**Fleas:** As the weather warms up, any **flea eggs** lurking in carpets and bedding, or outside in parks and gardens, will start to hatch. The eggs develop, via larval stages, into **adult fleas** (see flea life-cycle).

Adult fleas are small wingless insects that can easily jump onto pets, taking up residence in their coat and repeatedly feeding on their blood. They can create red spots where they have been feeding and cause pets to become incredibly *itchy*, resulting in them scratching and biting the affected areas. Worse still, female

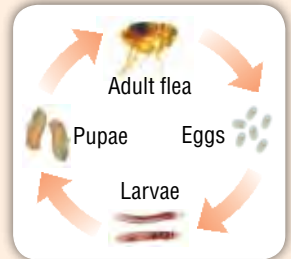


fleas can lay 30-50 eggs per day, which drop off pets and fall into carpets, bedding and outside areas. With a life cycle of about a month in warm summer (or centrally heated) conditions, the number of fleas in a household can quickly reach epidemic proportions!

**Ticks** in contrast are relatively immobile, waiting in long grass and woodland for an animal to brush past. Once attached (see photo top right), ticks feed on your pet's blood, often for several days. Ticks can cause problems in two main ways – firstly they can sometimes cause a marked tissue reaction at the attachment site and secondly, whilst feeding, they can transmit dangerous infections such as Lyme disease and Babesiosis.

So now is a good time to make sure you are up to date with your **spot-on flea and tick treatments**. Please let us advise you on the best form of flea and tick treatment for your pets!

### The flea life-cycle



### Troublesome ticks!



Parting the coat reveals a tick in situ with buried mouth parts.

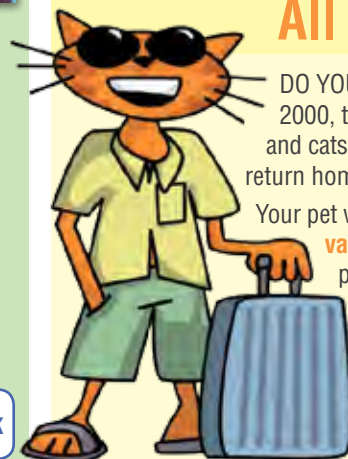
Specially designed v-shaped tick removers that remove ticks by *rotation* are very effective, minimising the disease risk and hopefully avoiding leaving the tick's mouthparts behind.



Slide the v-shape under the tick and remove it with a twisting action.

Dog photos: Jane Burton.

## All going on a summer holiday?



DO YOU fancy taking your pet on holiday with you this summer? Since 2000, the **Pet Travel Scheme** has allowed pet owners to take their dogs and cats to other EU countries and specified non-EU countries and then return home without having to put their pet into quarantine.

Your pet will need to be **microchipped** (to identify them) and subsequently **vaccinated against rabies**. Having completed these two steps, your pet can then be issued with a Pet Passport. Animals will be allowed to travel with a Pet Passport *21 days* after the rabies vaccination.

Before travelling home, your pet will require veterinary treatment for tapeworm. Other treatments are also advisable to help to protect your pet against exotic diseases whilst abroad. Please contact us for further information or visit: [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)



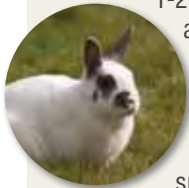
## Happy Bunny!

WITH the onset of warmer weather, we look at some top tips for keeping your pet rabbit fit and healthy!

**Protect them from flies!** As the weather warms up, flies can be annoying for humans, but for rabbits they can be deadly. Flies are attracted to rabbits if they have soiled bottoms and will lay their eggs there. These rapidly hatch out into flesh eating maggots which can be painful and fatal if left untreated. Make sure your rabbit's hutch is cleaned out daily and check your rabbit's bottom **every day** to make sure it is clean – call us immediately if you are worried.

**Shade** – remember that pets in outside runs need a *shaded area* to get away from the sun.

**Dental Care** is also very important since rabbits have *continuously* growing teeth, growing 1-2mm per week! This enables wild rabbits to graze *all day* on grass and other abrasive foods without wearing out their teeth! However this can be a problem if domesticated rabbits don't eat enough fibrous foods to wear the teeth down, leading to *overgrown* teeth. **Feeding the correct diet** is therefore vitally important in promoting dental health. Their ideal diet includes plenty of hay (to ensure teeth wear) together with a selection of fresh food and a small amount of commercial pelleted rabbit diet.



**Make sure they are vaccinated!** Just like cats and dogs, rabbits require regular vaccinations to protect them against two potentially deadly diseases – **Myxomatosis** and **Viral Haemorrhagic Disease**. *Is your rabbit up to date with their booster vaccinations?* Please contact us now to arrange a health check and vaccination!

## FREE HEALTH CHECK!

**on rabbits**  
during the summer  
with one of our  
veterinary nurses



## Some like it hot!

WE all love the summer – warm lazy days and longer evenings, but it's worth sparing a thought for our pets. With this in mind here are a few tips:

**Heat** can be a real killer for many pets. Make sure fresh clean water is always available and avoid exercising pets in the heat of the day, particularly with old, overweight dogs with heart problems – stick to early morning and evening walks. Also ensure that rabbits, guinea pigs and hens have adequate shade and water.

**Sunburn** is another hazard! Cats are natural sun bathers, but cats with white noses and ear tips are particularly vulnerable to sun burn and subsequent skin cancer. This risk can be reduced by keeping them out of the sun, or by applying sunblock to these areas during the summer months.



Ear tip of a cat showing early (reddened) cancerous changes. If your pet is showing signs of skin changes, please call us at once.

**Grass seeds** of the meadow grasses are easily trapped in the coats of pets, especially dogs. They often migrate and become lodged in a variety of places including the ears and between toes. Regular grooming, especially after walks, is helpful in preventing problems associated with both grass seeds and ticks.



Paw of a dog with an interdigital cyst caused by a grass seed (see photo right)



**Flies** are a huge problem for rabbits in the summer months. Flies are very attracted to rabbits if they have soiled



bottoms – here they lay their eggs, which rapidly hatch out into flesh eating maggots. It is important to check bunnies' bottoms on a **daily basis** and call us at once if you are worried.

**Finally, please remember – NEVER leave a pet in a car on a hot day.**

## Kennel cough – is your dog protected?

DID you know that wherever dogs meet, such as out on walks, training classes, and of course boarding kennels, they run the risk of picking up Kennel Cough?

This is a highly infectious cough, rapidly causing symptoms of severe whooping-like coughing and breathlessness as well as high temperatures, sore throats and loss of appetite. In the worst cases, dogs may cough for weeks and some may get more serious complications such as pneumonia. Even in young healthy dogs it can lead to weeks of coughing.

The condition is caused by a mixture of viruses and a bacterium – *Bordetella Bronchiseptica*. Although your pet's regular booster vaccinations should provide protection against the *viral* components of the cough, only intranasal vaccine drops can offer protection against *Bordetella*. We strongly recommend that dogs are vaccinated before staying in a boarding kennels and at any other time when the disease is rife. Please contact us for an appointment today!



## Pet Insurance – are your pets covered?



YOU look after your pets and make sure they have regular health checks and vaccinations, appropriate diets, worming and flea control, but what about getting them insured?

It's a worrying thought that in an average year, one pet in three will require veterinary treatment for some form of illness or accident. Added to this, veterinary medicine has advanced so much in recent years, that we can now treat far more conditions than we used to; MRI and CT scans are now increasingly routine and advanced surgical techniques such as hip replacements are readily available.

With appropriate pet insurance owners can hopefully avoid some heart wrenching choices and try to ensure that decisions regarding the best course of treatment for your pets can be made on the basis of *need* rather than cost. Don't take any chances – get your pet insured today!



X-ray of a fractured femur in a cat, following a road traffic accident

Although we tend to think of traumatic emergencies (such as bone fractures) as the main reason for insurance, many *medical* conditions, such as **heart disease** or **skin problems** can be very costly to treat – especially so if they are *life-long* conditions.