

**S** *Stay cool* in the summer weather. **Heatstroke**, a rise in body temperature, can affect our pets. Sunny or cloudy, humid days and the temperature can rise in your house, conservatory and garden! **Your pet can very quickly become dehydrated and overheated**, as their cooling system is not as efficient as ours.

**U** *ndertake* to follow some golden summer rules to safeguard your pets. **NEVER leave your pet in the car.** They will literally cook! Take daily dog walks in the cooler morning or evening air and no over exertion. Scorching pavements can burn toes and pads. Ensure access to shady cooler areas in and outdoors. **Provide plenty of fresh drinking water.** Limit play and snooze time in the sun. Place rabbit and guinea pigs housing and outside runs in the shade.

**M** *aggots* are a **serious danger to rabbits** and can cause an often fatal and painful condition called **Flystrike**. Flies lay eggs on the soiled rear end of a rabbit, where hatching maggots will feed on the skin and tissue. Inspect your pet daily to ensure they are clean, dry and maggot free. **Suspect Flystrike? Contact us immediately as this is a real emergency!**

**M** *ake memories* on walks or just in your garden, where our pets love to play. Capture their summer activities and post your pictures on our Facebook page. We'd love to see them!

**e** *ating 'al fresco'* is a favourite pastime in the summer. Keep an eye on your pets though, as when you are not looking those chicken or rib bones and corn husks could end up stuck in your dog's throat or stomach. Put the plates or rubbish bin well out of your pet's reach!

**r** *ecognise* the signs of heatstroke in your pet..... increased panting, disorientation, anxiety, pacing, distress, reluctance to rise, dark gums, excessive or thick saliva, loss of consciousness. Take prompt action by moving your pet to a cool area and calling a vet immediately!

**S** *unblock* the tips of white pets' ears. Dogs and cats that have white, thin or very little hair can get sunburn, which may lead to more serious conditions. For more information, call our friendly team.

**U** *nsure* of the plant life floating in the water where your dog likes to swim? If in doubt, **do not** let your pet in or drink the water. **Toxic blue green algae** is more common in the summer months and found in streams, ponds and lakes. The bacteria is seen as scum or foam. If you suspect that your dog has come into contact with this algae, do not delay in contacting a vet for advice.

**n** *ibbling* parasites like fleas, ticks and harvest mites ramp up their activity during the summer and autumn months, so maintain your pet's regular and effective treatments.



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# Be Honest....are YOU a cleaner upper or a leaver?

Summer time, where walks can be enjoyed in the warmer air and lighter evenings, but hopefully all dog owners know that when out with your dog, you should always have plenty of poo bags to hand! It is the owner's responsibility to ensure the scooping and safe disposal of your dog's poo. If you are caught failing to clean up in a public place, you could face an on the spot fine, or in court end up paying a very high price indeed! Thankfully, the majority of dog owners are seen being responsible and disposing full poo bags in the many special bins that are now provided.

**Risky Business** Dogs do get various worms and one, the **Roundworm *Toxocara Canis***, poses a health risk to humans and may cause liver inflammation and abdominal pain; in more severe cases impaired vision. So it is very important to clean up after your dog has defecated, not only on the daily walks, but also in your own gardens.

## Worm Facts

- A female ***Toxocara Canis*** can lay up to 700 eggs a day.
- These eggs are passed out when a dog poos.
- Eggs can survive in the soil for up to 3 years.
- 2-3 weeks of warm weather, eggs develop to embryo stage containing larvae, and can be infectious to humans.

Let us ALL be cleaner uppers and follow these 5 golden rules

**Poop scoop every time your dog poos in a public place or in your garden.**

**Dispose of the bag and contents responsibly.**

**NEVER take your dog into a children's play area.**

**Worm your pets every 3-6 months.**

**Use an effective prescription wormer.**

**If you are unsure of how and what wormer to use, just call us and we will advise you.**



## Achoo! Achoo!

**Once a wish twice a kiss so they say**, but if you are one of those people who suffers from hay fever or allergies during the summer months, sneezing can be many times in a row and causes great discomfort.

**Sneezing:** 'to make a sudden involuntary expulsion of air from the nose and mouth due to irritation of the nostrils'.

The odd sneeze here and there from your cat or dog is quite natural, but excessive sneezing can be a sign something is up!

**An allergy to food, pollen dust etc.**

**Infection possibly due to a dental or fungal problem**

**Insects or stings ~ A tumour or polyp**

**A foreign body such as a grass seed - common during summer**

We've even heard of paper clips, tinsel, string and a 12cm stick removed from noses!

For our dogs, smell is their primary sense. This highly developed sense helps your pet understand the world they live in, so any nose problems, especially signs of a crusty nose, discharge or blood, do need to be checked out. Please do not delay in giving the surgery a call.

**How does your dog smell?** As a dog's nose hits the air it can detect, taste and even remember minute odours, giving past and up to the second neighbourhood news! Your dog will certainly be able to smell that summer barbecue being cooked some distance away! Their nostrils even move independently, so informing which direction the news is coming from.

Dogs have the ability to breathe and smell at the same time. A fold of tissue inside the nose, helps split the airflow as it enters the nostrils, so that all the wonderful odours are diverted down one path for identification in the brain. Scent (olfactory) receptors in a dog range from 125 to 300 million depending on the breed, compared to humans who have only 5 to 6 million.

**If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to ask .....oh and if you thought you had a good hiding place for your dog's treats....guess what? Your dog will have already found them!**

## Hot... Hot.... Hotspot!

Ever found yourself in one of those irritating circles? You try to sort the problem, but it just gets worse and you can't seem to break free! Put yourself in your pet's paws for a while..... imagine there you are settling down for a little nap, but your leg starts itching again. Earlier in the day it was itching too. So you gave it a nice long nibble and lick when nobody was around. In fact you made quite a sore patch, which you are managing to hide from Mum by lying your head over it. Gosh, it's really irritating now and you just cannot resist having another go.....and after, **the result is a very raw, moist area of skin**, which is still painfully itchy!

Worst of all it's making you feel really agitated.... so more licking and nibbling is needed ..... Get the picture?

With all that 'attention', bacteria has now been spread to create a **hotspot**, which if not treated will rapidly increase in size with the continuous lick, lick, licking and nibbling.

**Causes** It could be fleas, a sting, possibly a mite infestation, an allergy or even a minor skin wound. Some cats and dogs will constantly lick and nibble their skin just out of boredom or stress.

**Notice any.... loss of hair, excessive licking nibbling/scratching, agitated behaviour, red/sore areas of skin. do not delay in calling us for advice.**

With prompt treatment we can help your pet break that irritating circle!

