



## Wear and Tear

Cats, infamous for long snoozes and relaxed lifestyles, do actually lead very busy lives, defending territory, eating, tree climbing, checking the shed for mice, teasing the dog next door and ensuring plenty of attention is received from their owners!

All this activity can take its toll over the years and as your pet ages, subtle changes may take place, which are not always visible.

**Joints can become a little stiff, hearing not so sharp and internal organs may not function so well.** In older cats, kidney failure is common, as these organs have to work very hard throughout their lives. Special nephrons in the kidneys help filter the blood and remove waste products. These gradually disappear over time and are not replaced. With this loss, the kidneys then fail to function correctly.

**Senior Urine Check** We can test your cat's urine to help identify early kidney disease and prepare a management plan to prevent advanced kidney disease.

If your cat is over 12 years old, are they

- Drinking a lot? ● Urinating more?
- Have they lost their appetite and lost weight?
- Does your pet seem tired, lethargic and have a dull coat?

**If your cat is showing any of the above symptoms, then call to book an appointment as their kidneys may not be working as they should.**

If the urine test confirms a kidney condition, although incurable, there are ways to help your pet cope with the problem.



## Parasite Paradise ...is your pet!

With warmer temperatures and humid conditions in the summer, fleas and ticks really do ramp up their activity, so it is very important to ensure your pets have not only preventative, but also effective care.

For those cats and dogs with no protection against **fleas and ticks**, these parasites can choose your pet as the perfect place to live. These blood sucking parasites will certainly make a meal out of your pet, and cause major irritation. **Fleas**, plenty of scratching, sore skin, and if they really get stuck in, even weight loss and anaemia, especially in young animals. **Ticks** may attach to and then feed from your pet, and can transmit **Lyme Disease**, which affects the nerves and muscles.

There are many products available to combat fleas and ticks, so please discuss with our team, which would be suitable for your pet. As fleas are a year round problem, ensure you protect your dog or cat in the cooler months too!

**Cat Chat** A cat's tail has 18-23 bones. The largest is at the base and the smallest on the tail tip. Each ear has 32 muscles that allow a cat to rotate their ears 180 degrees. That small cutaneous marginal pouch on your cat's ears is aka Henry's Pocket.



# Your Summer 2025 Veterinary Practice news

## Humans in Hot Cars!

**If you are thinking of taking your human out in the car today, remember the summer months produce cloudy, humid and sunny days, which mean your car will reach oven-like temperatures!**

**DO NOT** leave your human in your parked car not even in the shade, not even for a few minutes or even with the windows open, as they will literally cook!

Sadly last year, even with all the warnings and sad stories in the media, humans were still being left to die in hot cars. Either leave your human at home with plenty of fresh clean drinking water and access to cool areas of your house, or if you have to take them with you, ensure that your two-legged friend is not shut inside the car and left..... at any time!



## Your Surgery Hours

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**S**tay cool in the summer weather. **Heatstroke** 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. Take daily dog walks in the cooler morning or evening air. 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 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 in the park or just in your garden, where our pets love to play. Take a picture and post it on our Facebook page. We'd love to see them!

**E**ating 'al fresco' is a favourite in the summer. Watch your pets though! 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**asty stings from wasps and bees can cause allergic reactions for some pets. If you notice any swellings, drooling or difficulty breathing, please quickly contact us.



Your Practice Logo

address, phone & website



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 in 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 barbeque 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!**



Your Photo