

Shake it off!

Hands up those of you who have been the target of a wet dog body shake? Oh yes, if you are standing close to a dog whose coat is full of water then you are in for a bit of a drowning!

In a few seconds your dog can shed 70% of the water from their coat, whether after a bath or a swim in the sea. A built in hairdryer!

A dog's skin is loose, so it can amazingly twist and whip around increasing in speed as it does a body shake. Dogs are great at getting dry quickly with this natural reflex, which comes from their wild dog ancestors who needed to stay dry, as being heavily wet for too long was a matter of life or death. Water sits in the coat and creates poor insulation, which causes a dog's body to quickly lose heat and drain energy reserves. So it was very important for wild dogs to keep dry to help them survive.



Dry Body Shakes These get rid of dirt, loose hair and parasites....another throw back to ancestors who slept outside on the dirty ground. Stress can be another reason... maybe from a visit to the vets!

A good body shake, eases tension and resets the body allowing the dog to say 'phew that's all over, now time to move on'.

After an excitable playtime with another dog.....helps again to reset their emotions.

Feeling uncomfortable.....a good shake does the trick.

Following a nap.....gets the body going particularly in the morning after a long sleep. A bit like us when we have a good stretch after rising from bed!

All in all take a leaf out of your pet's book. A body shake helps a dog move on to a better state of mind and a reset of emotions..... **so let's all have a good shake!**



Do Not Disturb....I'm Busy Grooming!

Cats are very particular when it comes to keeping clean and tidy, and have a great built-in grooming tool kit; a rough tongue, claws, paws and sharp fine teeth! Along with being extremely flexible, your feline friend manages to look pristine most of the time!

Tongue *When your cat has licked your hand, have you noticed it feels quite rough?*

On the surface are numerous spines that are called papillae that 'comb' through saliva to clean their coats. As cats cannot sweat, the saliva also evaporates helping to lower body temperature. Watch your cat.....he or she will start by dampening a forepaw and then rub the paw around the face, head and ears frequently re-dampening the paw.

Dirt, loose hair and parasites are removed by cleaning. As your cat twists and turns to groom the rest of their body, the licking stimulates the sebum from the sebaceous glands, which is then spread over the coat to help maintain healthy skin.

Grooming Problems Watch out for **excessive grooming**; it can be a sign that something is up! Some cats can even create large bald areas, so please book your cat for a check-up asap. **Gagging and retching** could mean hairballs, which may need a little help to remove.

Cats with a poor coat condition may be unable to groom due to old age, arthritis or illness and require special attention.

An Important Part of Life

For your cat, grooming is not just about keeping clean. It is also a behavioural action that performs as a **self-calming method** for when he or she feels anxious, embarrassed e.g. falling off a ledge or even after a fight! It's best not to disturb your cat during their grooming ritual, as he or she prefers privacy!

If you are concerned about your cat, please contact our friendly team.



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Breaking News
for Cat Owners

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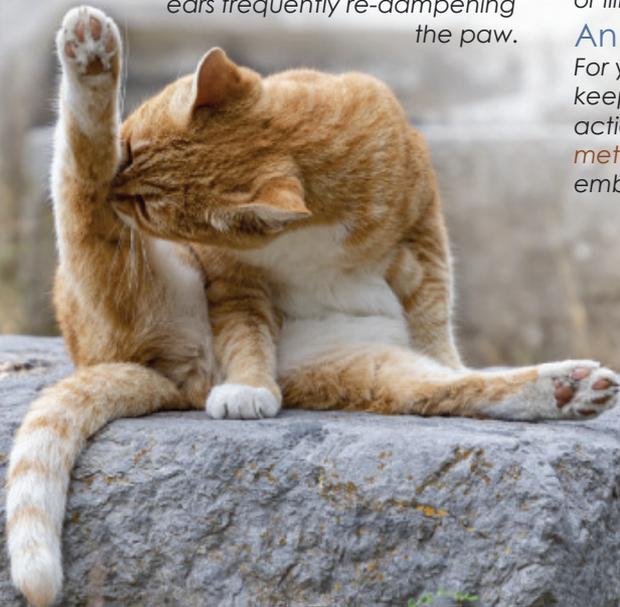
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Travelling with your pet within Europe

It is your responsibility as the pet owner to ensure all requirements for travel are identified and met.

If you are planning to take your pet abroad, please contact us as soon as possible to enable us to start the process in good time. Whilst an **Animal Health Certificate (AHC)** must not be started any more than 10 days before the date of travel, the more notice we have the easier it will be to book you in with one of our two suitably accredited vets.

We recommend contacting us at least 3 - 4 weeks before you plan to travel, due to the current staffing levels and the increased pressure on the practice we may not be able to assist you, if we are contacted at short notice to complete an AHC. Please be advised that you may be requested to collect paperwork after your initial appointment, as this element of the process takes much longer than the appointment. **We only offer this service for registered clients and pets of this practice.**

For the most up-to-date information on pet travel to Europe visit: www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad

There are different requirements for some countries, so wherever you are returning from, it is important to check the latest UK Government information about travelling with your pet well in advance of your trip. We also advise that you **check the entry requirements of the country** that will be your **port of entry** to the EU, as well as your final destination.

On 1st January 2021 Great Britain became a Third Country with respect to the EU Pet Travel Scheme.

UK Pet Passports are no longer being issued and are no longer valid for travel from Great Britain to the EU and Northern Ireland. Animal Health Certificates (AHCs) are now required for pet dogs, cats and ferrets travelling to the EU and Northern Ireland from Great Britain (non-commercial travel*).

Pet Passports from EU Countries and Northern Ireland, with rabies boosters given in an EU state or Northern Ireland, are still valid for travel in and out of the UK, **but can no longer be added to by an Official Veterinarian in the UK.**

The following information may help you

No more than 10 days and no less than 4 days before the date of travel, proof of microchipping and rabies vaccination are necessary (this can be in the form of your old pet passport if vaccination is still in date).

The pet/s travelling (up to 5 max) must have the following: Microchip (properly registered to legal owner).

Rabies vaccination up to date; this must be done after the animal is 12 weeks old and at least 21 days before the travel date, and before completion of the AHC.

Be travelling with the owner or within 5 days of the owner.* Not be travelling for sale.*

* Export Health Certificates are required if pets do not meet these criteria.

When the criteria is met, you may then book an appointment to get your AHC completed, no more than 10 days before your travel date. Once the appointment is booked, the vet conducting the AHC will **contact you by phone and complete a questionnaire** to ensure they have everything they need for the appointment. If we are not able to contact you in a timely manner the appointment may have to be cancelled.

More than one appointment may be required to complete an AHC.

The AHC is valid for 4 months for onward travel within Europe and return to the UK. Dogs traveling to Finland, Norway, Ireland, Northern Ireland or Malta **must be treated for tapeworm** no more than 120 hours (5 days) and no less than 24 hours before the travel date. When returning to the UK **this must be done again** no more than 120 hours (5 days) and no less than 24 hours before the travel date.

This information was valid as of 15 July 2021 but could be changed at short notice by the UK Government.

Prices

Animal Health Certificate – £149.00 for the first pet and £82.50 for any additional pets (to a maximum of 5). Rabies Vaccination (if required) is an additional charge.



New Cat Chipping Law

Information on the gov.uk site reports that **microchipping your cat is to become mandatory**. The government are currently reviewing the dog microchipping laws too, and then both will be enforced at the same time.

Once law, **cat owners will need to microchip their cats before they reach 20 weeks old**, plus the details stored and kept up to date on a microchip database.

Many lost unmicrochipped cats never get reunited with their owners and are rehomed from rescue centres. Also owners are often unaware of their pets being injured in road traffic accidents. Please don't wait for it to become law. Just call us and book your appointment now. It's quick, simple and a permanent means of identification for your pet. For further information visit www.gov.uk/government/news/cat-microchipping-to-be-made-mandatory



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