

# Hair Do!

We have probably all had more than our fair share of bad hair days during the lockdowns! By now though, hopefully most of us will have tamed and groomed our lockdown locks with a trip to the hairdressers. Every breed of dog needs their coat grooming too by brushing, washing and cutting, whether by its owner or a professional dog groomer.

**Your Pet's Coat** Brushing helps remove dead skin, loose hair and distributes the protective natural oils, all of which assist in keeping their coat and skin healthy. Some dogs require daily grooming, while others benefit from just a weekly brush.

**Golden Opportunity** Regular care also provides the chance to spot any health problems in their early stages such as fleas, ticks, lice, hair loss, lumps or swellings, skin conditions and hotspots.

**Fur Coat** Hair growth follows lines, which are called hair streams. These run from the head down the back, body and legs to the feet. There are factors that affect how this hair grows like the environmental temperature, time of year or health conditions.

**Nutrition** A diet lacking in nutrition may produce a dull coat with patchy hair growth, so it is important to ensure

your pet is fed a well-balanced diet. There are supplements and specific diets that can be given to help, but as always please consult with a vet first.

**Happy Times** Grooming is part of your dog's routine healthcare and should be an enjoyment for you and your pet. It helps build a relationship, and may even relieve stress for you both! Just take it slowly. Never scold your pet, give plenty of praise, be cheerful, and avoid tugging at their hair as it will hurt!

**Splish Splash!** When it comes to bath time, some dogs love it while others are not so keen. A dog would probably prefer to keep their dirt and smelly fragrance, but if they have just happily rolled in unpleasant fox poo or waded through a muddy puddle, then it's time to head for the tub!

## Tub Time Tips

- Brush coats thoroughly first.
- Give plenty of praise and happy reassurance.
- Place an old towel or rubber mat in the bath to ensure no slipping.
- Use warm water and dog shampoo.
- Avoid getting soap and water in eyes, ears and mouth.
- Rinse coats well, as soap residue can be an irritant.
- Be prepared to get wet! Dogs love a good shake during and after a bath.
- Ensure your pet is thoroughly dry, especially those with long, thick coats.

**If you would like further advice on coat care, please call us. Our friendly team will be happy to assist you on the type of grooming and frequency to suit your pet's breed.**

## The Long Awaited BBQ!

We reckon there is going to be a fair amount of BBQs and gatherings this summer! It will be good to see and spend time with family and friends again after being apart for so long. A warm Saturday evening or sunny Sunday, and the barbecues will be on the go, not only to the delight of us humans, but also to our cats and dogs!

The chit chat catching up will be flowing, and as dining al fresco is a far more relaxed affair, this provides our pets with the perfect opportunity, while your attention is elsewhere, to steal **rib and chicken bones** from those casually placed plates on the grass. That bin bag on the ground will also hold **corn on the cob husks** and other tasty snacks! Seeing everyone again will be a happy time for our pets too, but not so if any of the left-over foods or bones, some of which are very sharp, get lodged in their mouth, throat or stomach. These could even require surgical removal. Please be aware of what your pet may be eating, and remember to put the food, plates and rubbish bags well out of your pet's reach!

**Any signs of pawing at the mouth, retching, vomiting, lethargy, not eating or drinking, then do not delay in contacting us.**

## Hours

The Veterinary Hospital  
Hungerford

01488 683999

Mon to Fri 8am - 6pm

Sat 8.30am - 12.30pm

Belmont Veterinary Clinic  
Pewsey

01672 563413

Mon to Fri 8.30am - 6pm

24/7 Emergency

01488 683999

# New Rules

## for Pet Travel to Europe

If plans are to take your pet on your next holiday to Europe, please be aware that due to Brexit the pet travel rules have now changed. As from 1 January 2021, **GB issued Pets Passports are now invalid**, and the following new rules apply.

- ★ Your pet must be microchipped.
- ★ Have an up-to-date or receive a rabies vaccination.
- ★ Primary rabies vaccination requires a 21 day wait before travel.
- ★ Your pet needs to be issued with an Animal Health Certificate (AHC) by an Official Veterinarian.
- ★ An AHC cannot be issued more than 10 days before travel.
- ★ The AHC is valid for 4 months for EU onward travel and for GB re-entry.
- ★ Each GB to EU return trip requires a new AHC.
- ★ Dogs must be treated for tapeworm 24-120 hours before landing in GB.
- ★ Tapeworm treatment must be given and verified by a vet.

To ensure all is valid for your pet to travel and return, **please allow plenty of time** before booking your tickets. For those who wish to travel with their pet, please call us for advice well in advance of any travel plans.

Further information at [www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad](http://www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad)



### HOT! HOT! HOT!

Follow some golden rules to safeguard your pets from summer hazards.

**NEVER** leave your pet in the car. Oven like temperatures inside will literally cook your dog!

Watch out for **scorching pavements** and roads as toes and pads can easily burn! We have shoes to protect our feet...our pets don't!

Ensure your cat or dog is not shut in a hot and humid conservatory or greenhouse.

Pets can very quickly become **dehydrated** and **overheated** as their cooling systems aren't as efficient as ours. Recognise the signs of **heatstroke.... any increased panting, anxiety, pacing or reluctance to rise, disorientation, excessive or thick saliva, dark gums** ....move your pet to a cool area and immediately call a vet.

**Beach days....** a rolling **ball will gather sand**. This gritty substance can be swallowed by your dog, and easily sticks to the intestines. Sand is very difficult to remove and can even become impacted.

**The sea** is a powerful element with tides, undercurrents and waves, so for those sea swimming dogs consider a life vest.

**Flies** are a serious danger to rabbits and can cause the often fatal and very painful condition of **FLYSTRIKE!** Eggs laid by the fly on wet/soiled rabbit's hindquarters will hatch into maggots that feed on the skin and tissue. Please check your rabbit daily to ensure they are clean, dry and maggot free, but if you do suspect flystrike....call us immediately as **this is an emergency!**



# Does Your Pet Need a Checkover?

Your pets are our number one priority at all times, and although daily veterinary life was changed while coping with lockdowns, we have continued to provide the much needed care that some pets required. For other pets who have happily remained healthy, it may have been a long time since we saw your four-legged friends for worming, weight checks or just to say hello. We really have missed you! As we all need to get back to some routine, perhaps now is the time for your pet to have a health check with the vet, just to ensure that all is well. Maybe nails need clipping or booster vaccinations have lapsed? That slight limp or stiffness that your pet has been showing could do with being checked out. Does your cat need microchipping? Perhaps your pet's breath is not too fragrant and they would benefit from a dental check. Whatever the reason just call our friendly receptionist, who will book an appointment for your pet to see the vet.



We are so looking forward to seeing you all again!

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