

Such a Wee Mite!

Late summer and autumn time conjure up visions of gathering crops and blackberry picking, but it is also the time when the troublesome harvest mites can cause major irritation for our cats and dogs!

The adult mite lives in plants and other vegetation, but the larvae (*Trombicula autumnalis*) are at the stage in their life cycle where they require a warm blooded host to feed from, and this could be your pet!

- Harvest mites are.....**
- Orange/reddish in colour.**
- Very tiny and only just visible to the naked eye.**
- Active during the day in late summer and autumn.**

A highly magnified mite. They are actually smaller than 1mm.



The mites go for areas where the hair and skin are thin. Their small hook fangs then pierce the surface injecting a fluid that liquefies cells to enable easy feeding.

The larvae will continue feeding for two or three days, increasing in size and causing a considerable amount of itching and discomfort. As your pet scratches and rubs to ease the irritation, skin can become raw and sore, and crusty spots may develop.

Treatment and Prevention

Products are available to deal with harvest mites and our vet will provide instructions for treating and helping to prevent or reduce reinfestation. During the season regularly check around the ears, face, under the chin, the mouth and areas of the body that have no or very little hair. **If you see your pet excessively scratching and nibbling or notice clusters of tiny orange/red flecks on the skin, call us for further advice.** There are many conditions that can cause skin irritation, so it is always best for your pet to be checked over.

Bucket's Bulletin



Well what a busy summer it has been and so hot! Hey.....it was all lights, camera and action here at the practice, as we have become stars in the new Petplan advert, which is currently being aired on TV! So if you've not yet seen it, do keep a look out next time you are relaxing in front of the box. You might just see some familiar faces!

Talking of familiar faces..... **Johnny Thatcher**, who many moons ago very first appeared at the practice as a work experience student aged 15, has now qualified as a Veterinary Surgeon! Throughout his uni years he continued to visit us regularly to see practice, and now he's joined our team as a full-time vet! Whoop whoop!

With all this fame and exciting news.....I'm just going to have to lie down for a bit!

Bucket

Hungerford Team Update

We welcome back to the team Veterinary Surgeon **Ioana Mocanu** who has returned to us after a break working with another practice. She qualified from Bucharest University in 2008 and came to the UK in 2010, where she worked in Yorkshire for six years and then relocated to this area.

So Ioana what do you find is the best part of being a vet? Oh the best part of my job has to be leaving a poorly patient on treatment overnight, to return to a pet full of life and beans in the morning!

What was your first ever pet? A very clever black and white cat called Astro.

.....and what pet would you most like to have? A puma!



Jemima

Ioana

Joining us in July this year is **Jemima Jones** who hails from Australia. She has quickly become part of our team, and the best part for her is simply 'making animals better'. Jemima qualified at Charles Sturt University in Australia, and then worked at a mixed rural practice in regional New South Wales, before relocating to the UK. Molly the pony was her first ever pet, and now she would most like to have a pack of wire haired cheeky, super cute, Jack Russells!

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
Sat 9am - 11.30am

24/7 Emergency
01488 683999

It's whizz bang pop time again!

The firework season is not far away, and the loud bangs and screeches will be heard pretty much throughout the autumn and winter months. As we happily 'oooo' and 'aahh' at the star bursts in the sky and jump at the explosive sounds, sadly for some pets and their owners, it is a particularly distressing time. If your dog or cat is affected by fireworks, now is the time to begin preparations to help make your pet feel more relaxed, comfortable and secure.

Top tips for the firework season

At least 2 weeks before, create a safe haven for your pet in a room with few windows. Cover all sides of the haven except one. Ensure they can easily get in and out. Place inside a blanket, favourite toys, food, water and treats. Even an item of your clothing is good, so they sense your scent. Encourage your pet to often visit this safe haven, so as to become familiar with the surroundings before the noises start.



This is a hard one - once the noise starts, do not comfort your pet as it only reinforces the worry. NEVER punish or scold a fearful pet. Be happy and provide distractions. Play a gentle game and music to mask the noises outside and offer treats as the aim is to encourage confidence. Use pheromone plug-in diffusers, sprays or collars. Adaptil for dogs and Feliway for cats are available, and emit a comforting and reassuring scent, which is similar to the calming pheromones produced by a nursing bitch to her puppies.



There are also CDs based on the theory of gradually desensitising your pet to loud noises.

Keep pets indoors as it protects cats from the misuse of fireworks, and exercising your dog during fireworks could cause a distressed dog to run off, especially if off the lead.

Ensure your pet is microchipped as identifiable lost pets are much easier to reunite with owners.

We have plenty of help for nervous pets and advice for their owners, so please do not hesitate to contact us in advance of the firework season.

Autumn Hazard

Who can resist a shiny conker when it has just burst from it's prickly case. These jewels of autumn though, can cause our dogs some rather nasty and at times serious affects if eaten, even a blockage!



Conkers contain the chemical aesculin, which is toxic to our canine friends. It is found in every part of the horse chestnut tree, even the leaves. So if you have a 'conker' tree in your garden or regularly come across them on your walks, then do please stop your dog from playing with or eating conkers.

If you suspect or know your dog has eaten a conker, contact us for advice or if you notice your dog.....

vomiting - has diarrhoea showing discomfort or pain restless - becoming dehydrated.

Dogs are naturally inquisitive creatures, especially when it comes to anything that is possible food, so do keep an eye on your dog when he or she is outside. Treatment is available for conker poisoning, and the sooner this is given, the greater the chance of a happy outcome.

Bunny's Worries

*If you have or want to own a bunny
It is quite serious and not all funny
A responsible owner must take heed
Of the correct care we really do need*

*For us to live a happy, healthy long life
Owners should give attention and no strife
For some the novelty of us may decline
And for any pet this is a danger sign!*

*We have needs and require good care not bad
Otherwise our lives will be just forever sad
As we sit lonely, ignored in a small cold hutch
No means of escape or feeling a gentle touch*

*In the wild we have friends as we live in groups
Grazing on grass and running round in loops
As pets we still need friends, fresh air, the right food
All these plus more will keep us in a good mood*

*As you read and now feel that we rabbits
Will enjoyably suit your own daily habits
Please think... can you give us attention daily?
Provide a large, safe run so we can play gaily?*

*Vaccinate us regularly against nasty diseases?
Take us to the vet when we get the sneezes?
If 'yes' then do give us a happy nice home
As with love and care we won't feel sad or alone*



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