

# Covid-19

Hello to all our clients and their pets in these unusual times. Despite lockdown and the current situation, we would like to reassure you that we are here for you both while we all work through Covid-19. Our teams at our practices are currently working very hard to provide veterinary care for your pets and client service as best we can in these difficult times. With the measures in place to protect our staff and clients, it is taking us longer to fulfil our duties. **The phones have been very busy, so please bear with us if you have problems getting through.**

Thank you to all our clients for being supportive, understanding and patient, we know life has not been easy! We look forward to returning to some form of normality in the not too distant future, but until then stay safe, well and continue with that social distancing.



## A Fond Farewell.....

to vet **Kirsty Perry** who sadly left our team at the end of May, after nearly nine years with our practice. She had been working on a part-time basis, recently helping out at Belmont Veterinary Clinic, but has now moved on to pastures new. We miss you!

## Welcome to the World Little One!

Some lovely happy news that you will all be delighted to hear, is about one of our vets **Ioana**, who on 17th March 2020 gave birth to her son Albert seen here with his proud Mum. Congratulations from us all!

## We say Hello to

"local boy" Vet **James Bishop** BVM BVS MRCVS, who has recently joined our team. June also saw another new staff member come on board, Vet **Connor Fitzpatrick** Dr Medvet MRCVS. James and Connor have been qualified for nearly two years, and we look forward very much to working with them. A little further into the summer month of August, we will be welcoming new vet graduate **Jade Sanders**.



# The News

Summer  2020

## Veterinary Hospital and Belmont Clinic



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! Worse of all it's making you feel really agitated.....so more licking and nibbling is needed and..... we'll stop there. 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** Well 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.

**If you 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 some prompt treatment and identification of the underlying cause, we can help your pet break free of that irritating circle!

## 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

# 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 owners 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 of 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!

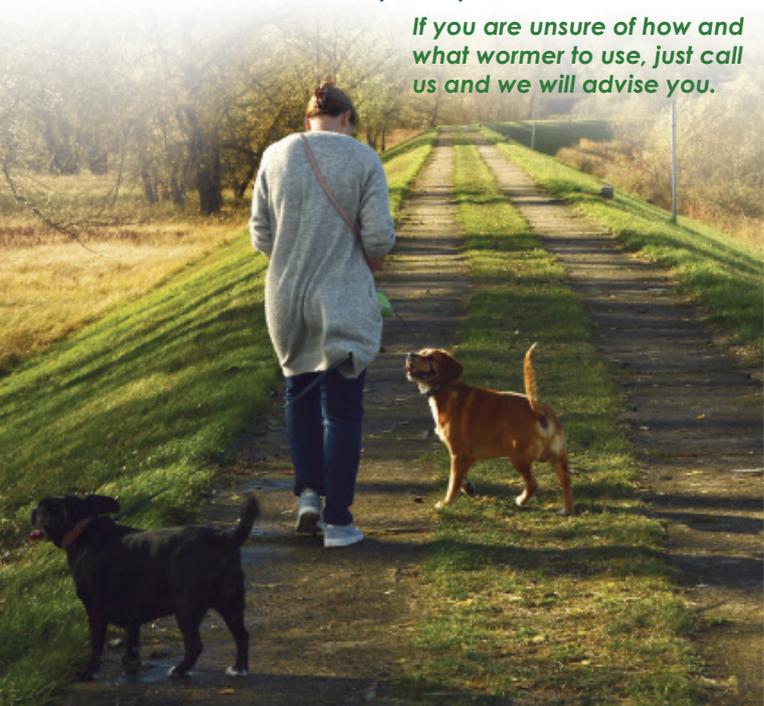
For our dogs, smell is their primary sense. This highly developed sense helps your pet understand the world they live in, so any nose problems, especially signs of a crusty nose, discharge or blood, do need to be checked out. Please do not delay in giving the surgery a call.

## 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 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!**



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4 Bath Road  
**Hungerford RG17 OHE**  
**01488 683999 24/7 Emergency**  
Belmont Veterinary Clinic  
Salisbury Rd Business Park  
**Pewsey SN9 5PZ**  
**01672 563413**

