



Summer Bites!

Warm weather brings the best out in all of us, but it also brings out plenty of pesky parasites as well! Make sure your pets have a parasite free summer by keeping their anti-parasite treatments up to date.

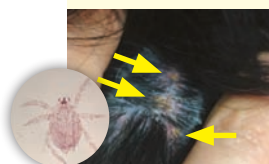
Fleas are thriving right now, especially on wildlife. If your cat is a hunter or your dog enjoys chasing rabbits, they are sure to come into contact with these biting blighters! Don't forget fleas are champion jumpers, so will have no problems getting on your pets wherever they go!

Scabies, or fox mange, is often diagnosed in summer. The scabies mite is a crawler, so can't travel easily, but if your dog enjoys rolling in fox poo or heading down fox holes, they can often be infected. These mites cause a VERY itchy rash.

Harvest mites are intensely itchy and often congregate between toes. They can be spotted if you look carefully. They are small, but bright orange!

If your dog or cat is chewing at their feet, they could be the cause.

Ticks can be found in grasslands and woodlands where they lie in wait for passing pets. Once on a host, they will feed in one location and may stay attached for several days. Ticks can sometimes cause local reactions but can, in addition, transmit a range of serious diseases including Lyme Disease and Babesiosis. We have a range of very effective products to protect your pet against summer parasites. Why not pop along and see a member of the Nursing Team who can advise you on the best flea and worm treatments for your pets' needs.



The bright orange mites often cluster together and are commonly found between the toes



Getting off to the best start!

Welcoming a new puppy or kitten into your family is a super exciting time! To give your new family member the best start, it is important that they have their vaccinations, a microchip and are regularly treated against internal and external parasites.

Vaccinations: Both kittens and puppies need a course of vaccines to ensure they are protected against infectious diseases. Our team will be able to talk you through the exact schedule. Pets will, in addition, receive a full health check, plus we can answer any questions you may have.



Microchipping is now a legal requirement in dogs over eight weeks of age. We also recommend microchipping cats and rabbits, hopefully ensuring that if they become lost or injured, a veterinary practice, the police or an animal sanctuary can scan your pet and identify you as the owner. Without a microchip, it can often be very difficult to reunite pets and their owners.

Parasites: There is a very high prevalence of roundworm infections in puppies and kittens. As they mature, they are susceptible to infection with both **roundworms** and **tapeworms** and will require regular worming treatment. Additionally, **lungworm** is posing an increasing threat for many dogs. We are also happy to advise you on **flea and ectoparasite treatment** for your pets.

Neutering: All cats should be neutered by the age of six months and certainly before you start letting them out! The situation for dogs is more complex and the timing of neutering, and whether it is required, is very dependent on your dog and situation. Our team will be very happy to discuss this with you.

Other things to consider are **diets** and **pet insurance**. We are here to help, so please do not hesitate to ask one of the Nursing or Reception Team for further information on any aspect of caring for your pet.

Please ask a Team member about Moy Vets Puppy Pre School which will help you give your new puppy a best start in life **and its free to our clients.**



More about vaccinations

As soon as you collect your puppy or kitten, we would recommend you contact us regarding their vaccination requirements. They will need a course of vaccines as a puppy/kitten and then we will advise you regarding their individual requirements thereafter (usually the next set is one year after the initial vaccination course).

Dogs are vaccinated against a range of infectious diseases: parvovirus, leptospirosis, hepatitis and distemper.

Cats are usually vaccinated against cat flu, panleukopenia, and feline leukemia virus.

Puppy and kitten photos: Warren Photographic

May Is Veterinary Nursing Awareness Month – Meet Our Team

What does a Veterinary Nurse do?

Registered Veterinary Nurses (RVNs) work alongside veterinary surgeons in order to provide a high standard of care for animals. Veterinary Nurses normally work within a veterinary surgery or veterinary hospital and are involved in a wide range of care and treatment.

RVNs provide skilled supportive care for sick animals as well as undertaking minor surgery, monitoring during anaesthesia, medical treatments and diagnostic tests under veterinary supervision. RVNs also play an important role in the education of owners on good standards of animal care.

As with any worthwhile job, the training required takes time, hard work and commitment - but those willing to put in the effort will be rewarded with a career offering variety, interest and daily contact with animals and their owners. Once qualified, RVN's must pay an annual fee to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) to ensure they are Registered on their Register of Veterinary Nurses.



Could it be Kennel Cough?



If your dog develops a harsh, hacking cough, it could be Kennel Cough – which is a very misleading name for the problem –

because your dog doesn't need to go to a kennels to catch it!

It can be picked up anywhere other dogs go, although kennels, doggy day care, or training classes, are all high risk places.

Kennel Cough (or Canine Infectious Tracheobronchitis) is a very contagious disease. It can be transmitted through the air, on objects that have been in contact with an affected animal, and also by direct nose-to-nose transmission. The condition can involve several infectious agents including viruses and a bacteria – Bordetella bronchiseptica. Younger animals are particularly vulnerable, and any pet that is going into kennels or dog training classes may be at greater risk.

It causes a harsh cough, an inflamed throat and sometimes nasal discharge. The symptoms can be dramatic, and it is not uncommon for owners to become concerned their pets have something stuck in their throats. The cough is often self-limiting, but can still persist for 2-3 weeks.

To give your dog the best protection against Kennel Cough, an intranasal vaccine is available to reduce the risk of developing the disease and reduce clinical signs. This is given in addition to your pet's standard vaccines. Please call us at the surgery for further information.

Handling the heat – a summer survival guide!

Finally, the summer is here, but it brings with it its own particular set of challenges and potential problems. Here are a few tips to keep your pet fit and well at this time of year:

Keeping cool! It is vital to ensure your pet keeps cool in hot weather. Dogs should be walked early or late in the day to avoid heat stroke. Paddling pools may help keep dogs cool and they should have free access to water at all times. Heat stroke is a common, and serious, problem and over-weight or heavily coated dogs are most at risk. Sometimes even minimal exercise can trigger it, so take care, even in the mornings and evenings. Finally, remember – dogs rapidly overheat in cars, and should never, ever, be left unattended.



Sunburn: Thinly haired or white coated pets are at risk of sunburn, especially if they are dedicated sun worshippers! White cats are particularly vulnerable to developing skin cancers on their ears and noses, so pay close attention to these areas. Problems tend to start as scabs or sores that don't heal and can progress to cancerous changes. To protect your pet, you can apply high factor sun lotion specifically designed for pets.

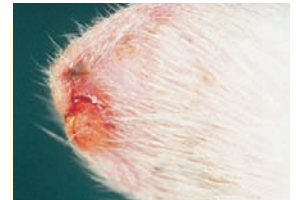
Grass awns are another summer problem – the grass awns of the meadow grasses are easily trapped in the coats of pets, especially dogs. They then migrate and become lodged in a variety of places including the ears and between the toes. It is always a good idea to groom your pets regularly, and especially after walks, to keep a close eye out for grass awns.

Stick to dog toys! Long walks with the dog are great, but please don't throw sticks! It is really tempting but we see some horrible head and throat injuries from them being speared. There is no reason not to play fetch (although it is best avoided if it is very hot) but use specific dog toys!

Insect alert! Bees and wasps are tempting to play with for both cats and dogs but will deliver a nasty sting if provoked! These are painful and can cause sudden swellings on faces or paws. Most stings will benefit from prompt veterinary attention.

Flystrike occurs when bunnies become dirty around their back-ends and flies lay eggs in the mess. These quickly hatch into flesh eating maggots, which cause horrible damage. Protect your bunnies by cleaning them out regularly, checking their back-ends twice daily and using anti-fly medications to stop any egg laying. Additionally, remember that pets in outside runs need a *shaded area* to get away from the sun.

So – enjoy the summer months, have fun and keep your pets safe. We are here to help, so if you would like any further information on summer hazards, please just ask a member of the team.



Ear tip of a cat showing cancerous changes – note the reddening of the skin. If your pet is showing signs of skin changes on their nose or ears, please call us.



Paddling pools are a great way for dogs to stay cool in the summer!



Grass awns of the summer grasses are a perennial hazard

We can tailor the flea, worm and tick control for your pet and budget monthly by joining our Health Care Plan

TO SIGN UP TO THE PLATINUM PAWS PLAN PLEASE SPEAK TO ANY MEMBER OF THE MOY VETS TEAM OR SEE MORE DETAILS ON OUR WEBPAGE

www.moyvets.co.uk/platinum-paws-plan/