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Chandlers Lane  
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Ottery St Mary  
64 Mill Street  
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Spring 2020

### Alabama Rot

90% of confirmed cases of Alabama Rot have been during the winter and spring months.

At present there is still no recognised cause but most cases occur during the damp and cold times of the year between November and May.

Symptoms include ulcerating skin lesions especially on the paws, lower part of the legs or nose, vomiting, not wanting to eat and lethargy.

We would advise to avoid muddy woodland walks as much as possible, especially at this time of year although in several of the most recent cases in other parts of the country those dogs had been walked on commons.

Whilst there is still no treatment, washing your dog in warm water after a walk, drying them well and keeping them warm may help.

*. "If your dog gets skin lesions consult your vet, without delay. "Unexplained redness, sores or swelling of the skin (on the paws, legs, body, face, tongue or mouth) are often the first sign of this disease." AMVS*

For more information on where Alabama rot cases have been found either look at the Anderson Moores website, these are the vets who saw the first diagnosed cases or search Alabama rot and Vets4pets have an interactive map.

**KEY MESSAGE:** although this disease can be very serious, the number of dogs affected with skin lesions and kidney failure remains low (204 confirmed cases across the UK between November '12 and Dec '19). AMVS.

### **THIS IS STILL A VERY RARE DISEASE.**



Photo Anderson Moores

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## **Common Parasites**

### **Ticks**

In spring and summer, ticks are very prevalent. They feed by biting an animal and sucking the blood. Once they have had enough they drop off.

Ticks can transmit infections that cause disease so it is advised that pet owners do the following:

- Ensure your pet is treated with a preventative product, available from your veterinary surgery
- Carry a tick remover, also available from your veterinary surgery
- Check your dog after every walk to ensure that ticks are located and safely removed.



Do not attempt to pull any ticks off as this may result leaving their head behind which can cause an abscess. In addition by squashing the tick as it is removed any infectious disease it may be carrying will enter your pet's blood stream.

We are currently participating in the Big Tick Project so if your dog has any ticks please bring it in to see our nurses.

### **Fleas**

These have four life stages, three of these stages, egg, larvae and pupae all take place in the environment either outside or in our homes.



It is only the 4<sup>th</sup> stage - adult where the fleas jump onto our pets to feed and breed.

In addition to treating your pet every month if you see fleas then treating the house is essential as 95% of the flea lifecycle is off the pet.

Fleas can also carry part of the tapeworm cycle, if your pet has fleas then using a comprehensive wormer is also recommended.

### **Chocolate warning**

Chocolate contains a product called theobromine which is toxic to dogs and cats.

If eaten chocolate can cause vomiting, diarrhoea and dehydration.

Therefore keep Easter eggs out of reach of your pets. Treatment involves inducing vomiting and in severe cases

**If you think or know your pet has eaten any chocolate please contact the surgery immediately.**