

Ikin & Oxenham Sidmouth Veterinary Centre

Wellbeing Clinics

Our qualified veterinary nurses run wellbeing clinics. If you do not need to see the vet you can see the nurse for free advice on many different topics such as kitten and puppy advice, flea and worm products and dietary advice. Our nurses are happy to help you and your pet for any of the following.

- ✓ 2nd vaccinations
- ✓ weight clinics
- ✓ diabetic clinics
- ✓ flea and worm checks
- ✓ puppy and kitten advice
- ✓ dietary advice
- ✓ post-operative checks
- ✓ removal of sutures post-surgery
- ✓ senior pet checks*
- ✓ micro-chipping*
- ✓ nail clipping*

Wellness clinics are Monday to Thursday between 3.30-4.30pm at our Sidmouth surgery and Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 2.30-3.00pm at our Ottery St. Mary surgery, appointments are necessary. Book in today to see us.

*a small charge applies, please check with a member of staff for more details

Don't forget to get your free dose of Broadline

For the month of March every cat that comes in for its booster will get a free dose of Broadline.

Broadline is a new spot on treatment that is now available for cats only; it treats for fleas, ticks, roundworms and tapeworms.

Ticks

With the warmer weather approaching something to be on the lookout for are ticks.

Ticks are generally found in areas of woodlands, moors, heathland or grassland including parks and gardens. They like to live in places with deep vegetation and lots of small animals and birds so they can feed off them. A tick has to feed to be able to grow from one stage to the next. It climbs up a leaf or stalk then waits for an animal to brush past so they can jump on and feed. The tick's front legs have hooks on them so they can hang on for dear life! The mouth of the tick is a hypostome – like a hollow needle. It sticks into the animal's skin and slowly drinks its blood, like drinking through a straw. It will stay attached for several days then will drop off when it has finished feeding. It will then burrow into the undergrowth to change into the next stage of its life.

There are two main ways that ticks can cause problems.

Firstly they can cause a marked tissue reaction at the attachment site.

Secondly, and more importantly, they can carry infectious diseases which may be transmitted to our pets and to us. The most common one is Lyme disease. For dogs, Lyme disease can be debilitating, resulting in joint pain, lethargy and affecting their nervous system.

To minimise the risk of Lyme disease in your pet, monitor them daily and carefully remove any ticks with a tick hook and/or use one of the products that rapidly kill or repel ticks. There are a number of products available including spot on, tablets and collars

Do's and Don'ts

- ✗ **DO NOT** – try to pull a tick out with your fingers! You may squeeze the contents of the tick back into your pet which is more likely to make him ill.
- ✗ **DO NOT** – try to burn the tick or cover it with Vaseline or any other creams or chemicals.
- ✓ **DO** – Clean the area around the bite after you remove the tick

If in doubt come and see our nurses and we can remove it for you.

It's nearly Easter, there will be lots of chocolate around so it's best to be aware of the dangers chocolate can cause for your pets.

Chocolate contains a product called theobromine, which is toxic to cats and dogs. The darker the chocolate is the more toxic it will be. If ingested chocolate can cause diarrhoea and dehydration, so make sure you keep the Easter eggs out the dog's way!



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