



Shires Veterinary Practice News

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Spring has sprung..... and so will the fleas!

Once again Spring is here and the fleas are hatching in abundance. Fleas are one of the most common parasites caught by pet cats & dogs. Fleas are not just an inconvenience, their saliva is one of the most allergenic substances on earth, and is the cause of a nasty skin disease in pets called Flea Allergic Dermatitis (FAD). For every effective flea control product, there are at least a dozen old wives' tales about fleas.

Once on your pet, adult fleas bite and take in a meal of blood and mate. Within 24-48 hours the female flea lays her eggs, these eggs fall off into your carpets and around your house. A typical female flea will lay over 200 eggs in a 5 day period, which hatch out and cause more and more problems.

The flea eggs hatch out into worm-like larvae which crawl away from light and downwards, and after 7-18 days these larvae pupate. This means that they spin a protective cocoon around themselves whilst they develop into adults. It takes between 5-14 days (though have been reported to be up to 18 months) for fleas develop inside the cocoon, after which they are triggered to hatch out in response to vibration (hoovering, movement).

So how do we prevent and control flea infestations? We recommend a two pronged attack!

- The use of a 'spot on' flea control product which kills the adult fleas on your pet. We currently use Frontline in cats, which should be applied every 4 weeks, and Prac-Tic in dogs, which should again be applied every 4 weeks. It is important that you know the weight of your pet so we can prescribe the most accurate dose. Prac-Tic is effective for 4 weeks even if your dog goes swimming, however it is very important that you do not bathe your dog for 48 hours before or after applying Prac-Tic or this will reduce its effectiveness.
- The treatment of your house. Household sprays will kill adult fleas and larvae very rapidly. We have two sprays to choose from: RIP Fleas, which is a chemical spray that kills fleas and larvae for up to 12 months; and Skooch which is a chemical free alternative that kills adult fleas and larvae for 6-12 weeks.



For further help and advice on the best flea control for your pet just ask us!

Alternatively visit www.fleafee.co.uk



Shires Veterinary Practice provides your pet with a complete healthcare service.

Services we offer include:

- Pet Passports
- Preventative healthcare including vaccinations, flea and worm treatments
- Daily nurses clinics
- 24 hour 'out of hours' cover.
- In house laboratory
- Full anaesthesia and surgery service
- ECG
- X-ray and ultrasound
- Endoscopy
- Dentistry

Trichomoniasis in Garden Birds

Trichomoniasis is a disease which can affect garden birds. Affected birds may show fluffed up plumage, may salivate, regurgitate food and show laboured breathing. It does not infect humans. The infection is transmitted by birds feeding and drinking from contaminated sources. So what can you do to help prevent this?

- Clean and disinfect drinkers/feeders regularly with very dilute bleach or special cleaners. Always rinse thoroughly and air dry feeders before use again.



If you want to report dead or diseased garden birds, please telephone the **Garden Bird Health Initiative** on 0207 449 6685.

For more information, visit www.ufaw.org.uk or www.rspb.org.uk

Daily surgeries at:

Stone:

The Veterinary Surgery, Eccleshall Road,
Walton, Stone, Staffs ST15 0HJ
01785 813955

Eccleshall:

The Veterinary Centre, Stone Road,
Eccleshall, Staffs. ST21
01785 850218

Hanley:

Shires Vets Ltd, 92 Bucknall New Road,
Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent. ST1 2BE
01782 214683

Gnosall:

2A Newport Road, Gnosall, Staffs. ST20
01785 823713

Loggerheads:

Eccleshall Road, Loggerheads, Shrop-
shire. TF9
01630 673568

**Please telephone for an
appointment**

Nurses Clinics

We hold nurses clinics on weekdays 3-4pm at both Stone and Hanley. The nurses are available during these times to discuss any aspects of your pets' care. They also provide:

- Removal of sutures and staples
- Post op checks
- Bandage changes *
- Nail clipping *
- Anal gland emptying *
- Burring of rabbits' front teeth *
- Diet advice
- Weight watchers
- Microchipping*

* - A charge applies to these services.

Please telephone either surgery for more information on our nurses clinics.

Travelling Pets.... Is your pet at risk??



It's nearly summer and plenty of you are now taking your dogs (and cats) on their summer holidays to pastures new. Everybody understands the requirements to have their pet wormed and flea treated before returning to the UK, but are you aware of the diseases that your pet may catch whilst abroad??

Heartworm: As its' name suggests, this worm lives in the chambers of the heart and major blood vessels. It is transmitted by mosquitoes and is common in Southern Europe, especially Southern France, Spain and Italy. Once a dog has developed heartworm it's outlook is poor unfortunately, so it's vital to prevent infection if travelling to an at risk area. The good news is that Milbemax and Stronghold both help to prevent Heartworm.

Babesiosis: This is a serious tick borne disease that destroys the blood cells of dogs. Signs include fever, anaemia, blood in the urine and jaundice and dogs can die within a day or two of the appearance of signs. Canine Babesiosis is particularly prevalent in France, especially south of the Loire Valley. Proper tick control with Prac-Tic both prior to, and continued whilst abroad is vital.

Erlichiosis: This is a tick borne disease prevalent in Southern Europe, the Rhone Valley and Finland. Signs are non specific but can include haemorrhages and nose bleeds. Again use Prac-Tic to help prevent tick infestation whilst abroad.

Leishmaniasis: This disease is carried by sand flies and occurs particularly around the Mediterranean. Signs include weight loss, enlarged glands, skin problems and renal failure. This disease is also transmissible to humans. We can order in a Scalibor Collar for you which contains agents to repel and kill Sand flies if you are travelling to an at risk area.



If your pet is lucky enough to be joining you on your Summer Holiday, don't worry, come and see us before you depart and we can advise you of the appropriate measure to take to ensure that your pet doesn't bring home more than a sun tan!



Canine Influenza in Greyhounds

There has recently been reports coming to our attention that Canine Influenza (or 'dog flu!') has been found in greyhounds in the UK. This acute viral infection is similar to kennel cough but typically dogs have a very high temperature and are coughing, & lethargic. Work is being carried out to look for a vaccine at present. Don't panic! At the moment there have been very few cases but if your dog start coughing, has a runny nose and is very lethargic obviously contact us straight away.

Our website is currently being updated. Why not visit us soon at:

www.shiresvets.co.uk