



# Newsletter

Endell Veterinary Group LLP, 49 Endless Street, Salisbury, SP1 3UH • 01722 333291

Spring 2012

## Focus on: Pyometra

Pyometra is an infection in a female animal's womb, causing the womb to fill with pus and the animal to become systemically unwell. As such a high percentage of cats are neutered at a young age it is a disease we see most commonly in dogs, but it is also seen in un-neutered female cats. It is a serious and life threatening condition and often requires emergency surgery.

Pyometra is most common in middle aged to older bitches though it can be seen in an un-neutered female of any age. The hormonal changes associated with each season make an infection more likely with age. Similarly hormone injections given to postpone heat can also increase the risk.

Most cases are seen six to eight weeks after the end of the bitch's last season, but can occur as little as one week post-season.

### Signs to look out for:

- Increased thirst
- Lethargy/tiredness
- Reduced appetite
- Vomiting
- Smelly vaginal discharge/'tide mark' on tail
- Licking of the vulval area

Not all cases will show all these signs but one or more, together with a recent season, would make us very suspicious and we would recommend that we saw the animal urgently.



A pyometra can be open or closed. If the cervix is open, pus will be able drain out through the vulva and a discharge will be seen. A closed pyometra is potentially more serious as the cervix is closed and the pus quickly builds up in the womb.

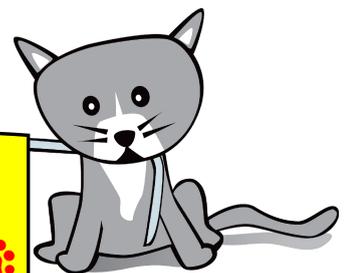
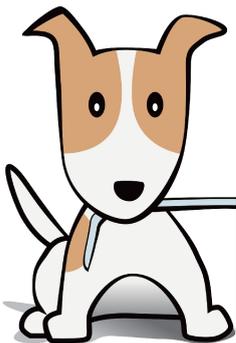
Blood samples and an ultrasound or x-ray are often needed to confirm the diagnosis and once the animal is stable surgery is needed to remove the infected uterus and ovaries.

Animals usually do very well with treatment, but it is a serious condition and the blood poisoning from the infection can affect other organs in the body meaning that sometimes the animal is too ill to survive.

Occasionally a pyometra can be treated medically if the animal is valuable for breeding. However this is not always successful and there is a high chance that the condition will recur after subsequent seasons.

### Prevention

Neutering of female animals at an early age is the best way to prevent this condition as breeding does not offer any protection.



## Special Offers!

### Value Cars Vouchers

Clients coming in with a Value Cars business card are eligible for a different offer each month:

**March:**

**Free** nail trim with a nurse

**April:**

**25% off** neutering

**May:**

**Free** diabetes screening test

### Royal Canin Food

Royal Canin are offering **25% off** all dry cat food and **buy two get one free** on feline food pouches until 30 April. We also still have some Royal Canin dog food marked at **25% off** but once it's gone it's gone! Royal Canin are continually sending us through new offers on their food, so pop into reception to see what's on offer this week or keep up to date by checking our Facebook page or following us on Twitter.

### Pet Health Plans

Don't forget that our Pet Health Plan members also get **10% off** all food and procedures/medications along with discounted preventative healthcare products and services; including vaccinations, flea and worm products, blood tests and blood pressures, depending on your plan type. Have you taken advantage yet?

# Flea and Tick Control

As the weather warms up people often become more aware of the threat of fleas and ticks. In fact modern lifestyles mean that most pets live in centrally heated houses where fleas can breed all year round. The peak times for ticks are Spring and Autumn, but again we do see them on pets throughout the year especially if your pet is fond of exploring the undergrowth.

Our standard recommendation for flea and tick control is **Advocate**® used monthly throughout the year and for most pets this is adequate to stop them bringing any fleas or ticks into your house. However, if your pet comes into contact with a lot of ticks, you may need to add in a tick repellent.

A new product has just been released this year and, uniquely for a tick repellent, it is safe for use in cats as well as dogs. In previous years there has been no tick repellent available for cats, as the active ingredient in the dog products is highly toxic to cats. **Seresto**® collar from Bayer kills fleas and both repels and kills ticks and is safe for dogs and cats. It lasts up to eight months so is perfect for use during the peak tick months.

For the majority of animals we would still recommend **Advocate**® as it also protects against a range of mites, roundworms and lungworm. However if ticks are a big problem for your pet ask a member of staff about using **Seresto**® in addition. **Advantix**® is still available for dogs and works well as a tick repellent it is also recommended for its sandfly repellent properties for those dogs travelling to southern Europe.

Once in the house fleas can take many months to eliminate, as 95% of the population will be in furnishings/cracks between floorboards etc as eggs, larvae and pupae waiting to hatch out and re-infest your pet. Monthly prevention is much simpler but does need to be kept up as products do not give 100% kill of new fleas after one month, meaning some breeding adults can slip through the net and into your home.



## Are You A Member of Our Pet Health Plan Club Yet?

The Endell Veterinary Group Pet Health Plan offers an easy, cost effective way to meet your pet's essential healthcare needs. We believe that preventative health care is an important part of pet ownership; things like vaccines and parasite control are important factors in helping your pet have a long and healthy life. As well as vaccines, wormers and flea control, the plan provides a six-monthly check up to catch any problems early, something that becomes increasingly important as your pet ages. This is not the same as pet insurance but allows you to save money and spread the cost of preventative health care for your pet and works well in conjunction with a good insurance policy.

### What's included?

For a regular monthly fee your pet receives:

- Twice yearly health assessments
- Full routine annual vaccination
- Full worming program for cats and dogs for effective year round protection against round and tape worm (includes lungworm)
- All year round flea control for cats and dogs
- Parasite program for rabbits for *E cuniculi*
- Annual health screen blood test
- Insurance claim forms completed free of charge

In addition, you get discounts on the following

- Routine consults
- Neutering
- Microchips
- Dental treatments
- Additional vaccinations
- Royal Canin and Hill's food



## Welcome Audrey and Welcome Back Jo!

Audrey has been with us a few months now as receptionist on a Saturday morning and is settling in well. Saturdays can be hectic out on reception, with clients in and out plus managing the phone lines for farm and small animal calls, but Audrey has been taking it all in her stride.

After the birth of baby Alfie last year we are delighted to welcome back Jo Rolf, one of our senior clinic nurses. However, Jo is only back with us two days a week for the next few months, until baby number two arrives! Some of you may have already seen Jo in her nurse clinics on Tuesday and Friday lunch times.

## Discounted Clinic for Pensioners

From Tuesday to Thursday, the small animal department runs a discounted clinic for pensioners between 10am and 3.45pm. Any clients who are pensioners will qualify for a 10% discount (some conditions apply) on consultations, vaccinations and flea and worm medication. However, you will have to prove you are a pensioner on your first visit - you don't always look your age!

For more information or to book an appointment, please telephone us on:

**01722-333291**