



Newsletter

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

Summer 2012

Enjoy Summer Safely ...

With the British weather the way it is, hot sunny spells can take us by surprise! Don't forget that your pets will be feeling the heat as well and can suffer from heatstroke which can be fatal.

Never leave a pet in a car, caravan or conservatory, even for a short while. Leaving a window open makes little difference as temperatures can rise rapidly within a few minutes and you never know if you may be unexpectedly delayed. Every year dogs die in hot cars.

Make sure your pet always has access to clean drinking water and remember to take extra with you on trips out. Pets should be encouraged to seek shade and avoid walking dogs in the midday sun, opt for early morning and evening walks instead. Pets with thin fur and/or pale skin are also susceptible to sunburn which can be prevented by using sunblock on vulnerable areas.

The signs of heatstroke include excessive panting and salivation, distress and collapse. Pets may also fit, which will further increase their body temperature. Don't use icy water to cool them as this will bring their temperature down too quickly, instead cover them with cool water or soaked towels and sit them near a fan to gradually cool them. You should also seek prompt veterinary attention to make sure there is no long term damage and offer them cool water to drink.

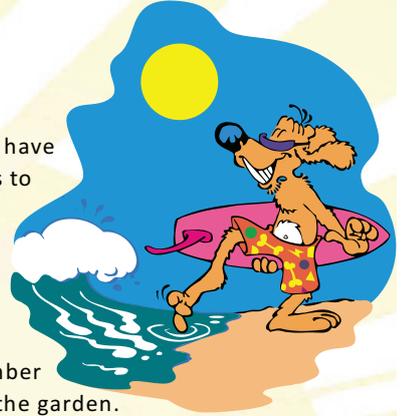
Smaller pets such as rabbits, guinea pigs and hamsters are also vulnerable to heatstroke and signs are similar to those in dogs and

cats. Ensure hutches and cages have adequate shade and move runs to shaded areas of the garden. Make sure that water is kept well topped up. Small pets can deteriorate very quickly so should be checked regularly throughout the day and remember that the sun will move around the garden.

If you suspect that your pet has heatstroke, wrap them in a cool damp towel and seek immediate veterinary attention. Bear in mind as well, that for routine trips to the vet, small pets can get very hot in small boxes in warm cars. Always ensure that there is good ventilation and never leave them in a parked car.

Barbeques are another common source of problems in the summer. Avoid giving pets scraps from the barbeque and make sure that bins are secure to prevent pets from helping themselves! Vomiting and diarrhoea after eating undercooked or fatty foods is very common. More serious problems such as a corn cob causing a blockage in the intestines or a kebab skewer piercing the stomach will require surgery and can be fatal.

A little care around the hot barbeque is also needed as burns from hot coals are seen as well as the occasional case of poisoning from ingestion of lighter fuel.



Summer is a great time for pets and let's hope we have some sunny weather to enjoy, with a little forethought you should be able avoid a trip in to the vets to spoil it!

Backyard Chickens



Chickens are fast becoming a more and more popular pet and many people now keep them, not only to produce good quality, fresh free-range eggs at home, but also for many other reasons: to create interest in the garden, as a hobby for children and to create a learning experience for the family, for manure for the garden or simply just because they look attractive! With appropriate diet, housing and general health care, backyard poultry can be very rewarding pets to own. However, they also have their own special health considerations to bear in mind and can from time to time require veterinary attention.

Here at Endell Veterinary Group we are a "chicken friendly" practice. We are always ready to help with any concerns or queries you may have regarding your pet birds, and have a range of products to help solve most problems.

We offer consultation, preventative health care, including red mite and worming advice and are ready to provide medical and surgical treatment when necessary. Even if you are just thinking about getting some feathered friends and would like some advice on where to go and how to set up, please come in for a chat with one of our vets.

www.endellveterinarygroup.co.uk

New Rabbit Vaccine

A new vaccine for rabbits has been released this spring. Previously, rabbits have needed a vaccination against myxomatosis twice yearly and another against viral haemorrhagic disease once yearly. This new vaccine combines protection against both diseases into one injection given once a year. We would recommend vaccination of all pet rabbits whether kept indoors or out as both diseases can be spread by biting insects and close proximity to other rabbits is not needed for transmission.

Don't forget to keep a close eye on your rabbit as the weather gets warmer. They need checking twice daily throughout the summer to make sure they are clean and dry, with no signs of fly strike (when flies lay their eggs on soiled fur the eggs hatch into maggots which will eat away at flesh). Call in and chat to one of our nurses about using a product such as Rearguard to further reduce your rabbit's risk of fly strike.



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 pets' 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 tapeworm (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



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



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Endell Veterinary Group Small Animal



Ordering Food and Medications

We have changed the way we order your pets' medications and food. We have found that holding a lot of stock means that many products go out of date on the shelf. To try and combat this we are ordering most medicines and foods from our wholesaler only as required. In order to save yourself a wasted journey in to the practice, we ask that you please telephone us in advance to give us 48 hours' notice to order your food or medication.

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