



News

There is not too much news on the practice front this quarter – various projects including our new computer system and redesigned web site have been completed and are working well. This time of year we are happy to support various local organisations financially as our contribution to the community – Bridge of Weir Festival Week, Houston Kirk Carnival and Kilbarchan Agricultural Show, are among the events we help to sponsor. The PDSA, SSPCA, Dogs Trust and local Cat Rescue also appreciate the monetary help they get from the practice through your contributions via the collection tins and raffle tickets at the reception desks. Thank you on their behalf.



Does your Cat drink like a fish?

It's common knowledge that many cats start to drink more when they get older. Many spend years showing no interest in water and then suddenly you are filling the bowl up regularly and catching them at the tap, the pond, puddles

It's easy to put this down simply to ageing, but there is usually a specific reason why an older cat starts to get thirsty, and in most cases we can identify the problem and initiate treatment.

So, if you think your cat is drinking more, bring him into us for a check and if necessary we can do blood tests to diagnose the problem which may be kidney or liver disease, an over-active thyroid gland, or diabetes, all of which can be treated either by diet or by ongoing treatment with regular medication or injections. Hopefully this will give your cat a longer and more comfortable life.



Don't get hacked off with the cough!

Canine infectious tracheobronchitis (kennel cough) is one of the most prevalent infectious diseases in dogs and can be picked up wherever dogs congregate – for example, obedience classes, out on walks, and (classically) in boarding kennels. The disease is caused by a number of different airborne viruses and a bacterium – Bordetella bronchiseptica. Infected dogs typically develop a harsh dry spasmodic 'honking' cough which may last for several weeks often requiring antibiotic treatment to help resolve it. Because the disease is so distressing to both dogs and their owners, it is much better prevented by vaccination. Although regular booster vaccinations offer protection against many of the airborne viruses, only intranasal vaccines offer protection against Bordetella. Don't take any chances with kennel cough – contact us now to ensure your dog is adequately vaccinated.

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Some like it hot!

Although the warmer summer weather is wonderful for us humans, it is worth sparing a thought for our four-legged friends! Here we look at some steps you can take to avoid the summertime blues! Cats, like ourselves, are great sunbathers. However cats with white ear tips and noses are particularly at risk from sunburn which often leads to localised skin cancer of these areas. This risk can be reduced by keeping them out of the sun or by applying sunblock to these areas during the summer months.

Bees can be irresistible to inquisitive pets and dogs like to bite at them as they are flying and as a result tend to get stung in the mouth. Prompt veterinary attention may be required because some dogs (like humans) are allergic to bee stings.

Ticks are blood sucking parasites that are picked up in long grass. The ticks which are initially tiny, bury their mouthparts into the skin, becoming firmly attached in the process. Their body expands as it fills up with blood that they suck from their host. Ticks are a nuisance for two reasons: firstly they can cause abscesses where they attach and secondly they can transmit serious blood borne diseases such as Lyme disease.

Fleas are by far the most common parasite in cats and dogs. Although they are often thought of as being a summer problem – they are in fact a year round issue. Effective flea and tick preparations for dogs, cats and rabbits are available from the surgery, e.g. Advantage and Frontline. These are much more effective than pet shop and supermarket products.

Flies are a summer hazard for rabbits. Rabbit rear ends often become damp; this attracts flies which lay eggs, which in turn develop into flesh eating maggots. During the summer months, rabbits should be inspected daily for fly eggs and maggots.

Grass seeds (or awns) of the meadow grasses are a big problem for many dogs, working their way into ears, paws and other areas. In view of this a thorough coat inspection after walks is recommended. Finally a note about cars! Never ever leave a pet in a car on a hot day.

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BEST WISHES
FROM ALL STAFF AT
BOTH SURGERIES

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