

KERR VETERINARY GROUP

Consultations by Appointment
Ian Kerr, BVMS, MRCVS
Owen Borthwick, BVM+S, MRCVS
Natalie Tait, BVMS, MRCVS



MAIN SURGERY

5 Windsor Place, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, PA11 3AF.

Tel: 01505 690536.

BRANCH SURGERY

12 Thornhill, Johnstone, Renfrewshire, PA5 8JG.

Tel: 01505 323331

www.kerrvetgroup.co.uk

SPRING/SUMMER 2016 NEWSLETTER

NEWS

Cheryl, one of our Johnstone Surgery receptionists, had a baby boy in March and will be back in her usual place later in the year.



THE TROUBLE WITH TICKS!



With the onset of warmer weather, something to be on the lookout for when grooming or stroking your pets is ticks! Ticks wait in long grass and woodland for an animal to brush past. Once attached ticks feed on your pet's blood, often for several days. Ticks can cause problems in two main ways – firstly they can sometimes cause a marked tissue reaction at the attachment site and secondly, whilst feeding, they can transmit dangerous infections such as Lyme disease and Babesiosis. So how can you minimise the risk of these diseases in your pets? Daily monitoring for ticks and careful removal of ticks with a tick hook within 24 hours of attachment. This approach works because a tick infected with *Borrelia* has to feed for several hours and often 24-48 hours before disease transmission occurs. Chemical tick protection – there are a range of products that rapidly kill or repel ticks and which are very important in reducing tick feeding and therefore Lyme disease exposure. Spot-on, collar and tablet products are all available, offering you a wide variety of effective options for your pets. A simple twisting and pulling action is all that is required to remove the tick while minimising disease risk. Specially designed v-shaped tick removers that remove ticks by rotation are very effective at removing ticks.

KENNEL COUGH – IS YOUR DOG VACCINATED?



Kennel cough is a highly contagious infection of the upper respiratory tract of dogs and in fact, unlike its name, can be caught anywhere that dogs meet – out on walks, training classes, dog shows, and of course boarding kennels. Dogs of all ages can be affected and signs include a harsh, dry, whooping-type cough. Whilst some dogs recover relatively rapidly, others may cough for weeks and some may get more serious complications such as pneumonia. Prevention is much better than cure, because without vaccination, treatment of kennel cough can be a costly and lengthy process involving isolation and antibiotic therapy. Kennel cough is caused by a mixture of viruses and a bacterium – *Bordetella bronchiseptica*. We strongly recommend that dogs are vaccinated before staying in boarding kennels and at other times when the disease is rife. Please contact us for more information or to book your booster.

THE HEAT IS ON!



At last the prospect of warm lazy days and balmy barbeque weather! But as the weather warms up, do take the time to make sure your pets stay safe. Here we look at a few steps you can take to keep them fit and well. **Heat** can be a real killer for many pets and for this reason it's a good idea to walk dogs in the morning or evening – before 8am and after 5pm. If you have space, dogs love cooling down in a paddling-pool. Frozen ice treats are also a good way of cooling your dog down on a hot day. Rabbits and

guinea pigs are very susceptible to problems arising from excess heat, because – unlike dogs, if they overheat, they cannot pant effectively or sweat to cool themselves down. It is vitally important that they have access to shade at all times, plus cool water – preferably in a bowl (not a bottle). **Factor 50!** Cats are natural sunbathers and for many cats this causes no problems. However, cats with white ear tips and noses are prone to sunburn and this can lead to cancerous changes over time. High factor sun block applied to the at-risk areas help to minimise this. **Grass Awns** of the meadow grasses are an issue at this time of year. They are commonly trapped in dog's ears and may also become embedded in the feet. In view of this, thorough inspection of the coat is advisable following walks. **Flies** are another summer hazard. Flies are very attracted to rabbits if they have soiled bottoms - here they lay their eggs which rapidly hatch out into flesh eating maggots. It is important to check bunnies' bottoms on a daily basis and call us at once if you are worried. **Finally**, please remember that the temperature in cars can rise rapidly and death from heat stroke can follow in minutes, so pets should NEVER be left unattended in cars.

BEST WISHES FROM ALL THE STAFF.