



Companion Animal Newsletter - JULY 2019



Healthy Pet Club

PUPPY & KITTEN PLANS



Here at Dalehead we know that you will want to provide the best care for your new pet and we are here to guide you at every step of the way! With this in mind, we have designed our own practice membership scheme. Not only does this provide you with preventative healthcare treatments for your pet's first year, it also allows you to spread the cost in twelve monthly payments and save money along the way!

The Dalehead Healthy Pet Club Puppy and Kitten Plans provide a tailored preventative health care plan for your pet's first year of life.

Plans Include:

- Annual Veterinary Health Check and Vaccination
- 12 Months Parasite Control
- Easy and effective treatments for roundworm, tapeworm, fleas and ticks following a treatment plan recommended by our veterinary team
- Free Nurse Clinics—including nail clips, nutritional, weight, and dental assessments and advice
- Free starter bag of Hill's Vet Essentials food

There are also various other discounts associated with the plans:

10% off All Pet Food **10% off** Neutering **10% off** Pet Passports

10% off Rabies Vaccine

20% off Kennel Cough Vaccine

10% off Dental Procedures **50% off** Microchipping

There are no joining fees, just fill in an application form or enquire at our Settle or Bentham surgeries. Plans start from as little as £12.00 per month.

Spread the cost by direct debit monthly payments and start making savings straight away!

	Pet Size (at adult)	Cost Per Month	Cost Per Year
Kitten	2.8 - 5Kg	£12.50	£150.00
Puppy	2 - 10kg	£12.00	£144.00
	10 - 20kg	£14.00	£168.00
	20 - 40kg	£15.50	£186.00
Annual Savings up to 28%			

Relax... Knowing everything is taken care of



CANINE TRAVEL SICKNESS



The summer holidays are fast approaching and with this we look forward to the long sunny days we can spend with loved ones including our pets, exploring new places near and far.... Wait a minute, did I say far? As in, we have to get in the car?!

It isn't unusual for dogs to become travel sick in the car, especially if they don't experience travelling that often. Ideally as puppies we should encourage car journeys and reinforce them as a positive experience with rewards such as walks and games at the journey's end.

More often than not however, a trip in the car can be associated with negative experiences. A puppy's first car journey coincides with leaving their mum and being a little frightened and anxious. Some puppies can literally start to worry themselves sick. Once a puppy associates car travel with the unpleasant sensation of nausea and vomiting, they become increasingly worried about

travelling and the end result can be a puppy suffering from severe car sickness.

Initially, car journeys should be kept as short as possible. Make sure that the puppy has had chance to go to the toilet immediately before the journey and do not travel within an hour of their last meal. Ensure both yours and your puppy's safety by making sure they are secured in a crate or with a car safety harness (not a lead harness) attached as per the manufacturer's instructions. If your puppy cries, ignore this, as making a fuss is 'rewarding' this negative behaviour.

A good example of an initial introduction to car journeys was made recently by our receptionist Ruth who took her 8 week old puppy on the school run. A ten minute journey to school, a carry to drop the kids at the school gate and a good opportunity to socialise meeting other parents and children followed by a ten minute journey back home. The positive reinforcement for puppy was being praised upon the return home, a run around the garden and breakfast! Once Ruth's puppy had completed it's vaccination course, the journeys were made even better by little walks and fusses from passers by when they arrived at the school each day.

Plan Ahead

- Don't feed your dog just before travelling
- Use of a natural calming spray such as Pet Remedy, sprayed into the car 20 minutes before commencing the journey, can have a marvellous effect (speak to a member of our team for details)
- Plan regular comfort breaks for long journeys, a bit of fresh air, stretching the legs and a small drink of water will help maintain your pet's well being while travelling
- If possible, a walk before setting off can help tire your pet so that he is more likely to sleep

During The Journey

- Open the windows a little to allow in fresh air
- Avoid smoking or other strong odours in the car
- Allow your pet to see out of the car. Some harnesses allow dogs to safely sit up on the back seat and face forward. Being unable to look out and focus on distant objects can trigger motion sickness
- Sleeping dogs tend not to develop nausea so a comfy bed to sleep on when the dog gets tired can help them to relax and sleep.

Long Term Management

Older puppies and dogs that have developed travel sickness issues will need behavioural modification, which really just means restarting the training process. Enforce the belief that the car is a positive place to be, allowing your dog to sit or sleep in a comfy bed in the car without travelling anywhere will give a sense of familiarity and reduce the feeling of stress or anxiety. The more often this is done the better. Giving your dog a treat, toy or lots of affection and praise will provide reassurance your dog is displaying the correct behaviour.

REMEMBER NEVER TO LEAVE YOUR DOG IN THE CAR DURING WARM WEATHER, EVEN FOR SHORT PERIODS OF TIME AND EVEN ON CLOUDY DAYS.



After 2 weeks, start the engine for a little while without going anywhere. After another 2 weeks, try a 2-3 minute journey and slowly build up your pets confidence following the travel hints already discussed. A pleasant end destination will again be useful for positive reinforcement.

For the stubborn cases of travel sickness, the above advice should still be followed but the use of medication can also be added. Mild sedatives and antihistamines can reduce the symptoms of travel sickness by reducing anxiety and causing drowsiness, which will help the pet sleep. A specific anti-sickness tablet can be prescribed for severely affected cases. Prior to this medication being prescribed, a consultation with a vet will be required to check your pet's current health status and the suitability of the product for their condition.

For more information or advice, please speak with one of our nursing team.

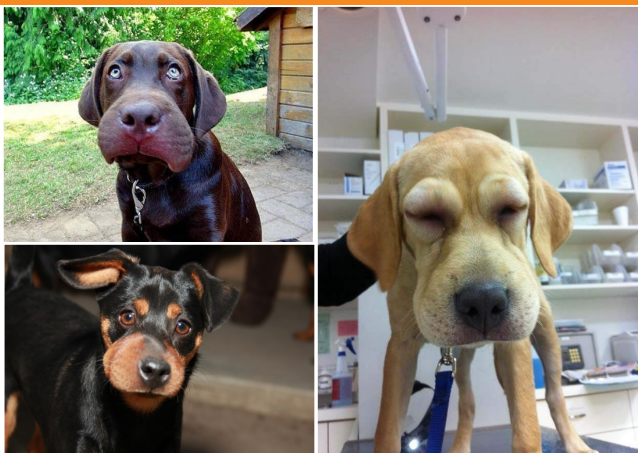
WASP AND BEE STINGS

All dogs are curious creatures and love to run and chase things... including bees and wasps! The majority of the time stings will cause a minor irritation and pain for your dog. However, if stung several times, or if stung inside the mouth or throat, complications can occur and a trip to see us will be necessary.

Identifying what has stung your pet is often possible, the bee's sting is barbed and designed to lodge in the skin. The bee is killed when it detaches from the body, leaving the sting behind. Wasp stings are not barbed but are more painful, and if provoked these insects can sting multiple times.

Most cases which are seen at the surgery involves pets faces, mouths and throats. The areas are extremely sensitive therefore pain and swelling occur quite quickly. Swelling can be fatal if in the mouth or throat as it can block the airway. A severe reaction can be observed if the animal suffers a large number of stings or if the dog has an allergic reaction to the chemicals in the sting. Signs of a severe reaction include:

- General weakness
- Difficulty breathing
- Large amount of swelling extending away from the sting site



Watch out for swelling around the neck, throat and head. If your dog is having a severe reaction, veterinary attention should be sought immediately.

A simple sting can be safely treated at home. If the stinger can be seen, carefully remove. This is done by scraping the area with a strong piece of card. The reason behind this is so the stinger is not pushed in further causing the further release of venom.

Apply a cool pack for up to 15 minutes to the area to reduce the swelling and sooth the area.

Keep an eye on your pet for worsening symptoms, keep your pet quiet to disallow further spread of toxins around the body.

WELCOME ON BOARD! RECEPTIONIST RICK JACKSON



We are sure you will join us in welcoming on board our new receptionist Rick Jackson who will be primarily working out of our Bentham branch surgery. Rick will be known by many of you, he has lived in Low Bentham for the past 17 years with his family and currently has three dogs and two cats. He is also known for his guitar playing at local venues although he isn't in a band at the moment.

Rick is keen to continue Karen's good work in maintaining the good links the practice has with Bentham clientele and we are hoping to open up some extra clinics as well as alternative therapies such as veterinary acupuncture clinics, in the near future.

Rick will be on hand to help out on our stand at Bentham Show this year on 7th September so come along to say hello or just pop into the surgery and introduce yourself to him!

CANINE ARTHRITIS MANAGEMENT

Head Nurse Katherine McNamee and RVN Glen Sedgwick attended a course recently supported by the Hill's Pet Nutrition Roadshow on Canine Arthritis Management. It covered topics such as weight management in arthritic animals, education and support for owners of arthritic pets and environmental considerations for arthritic pets.

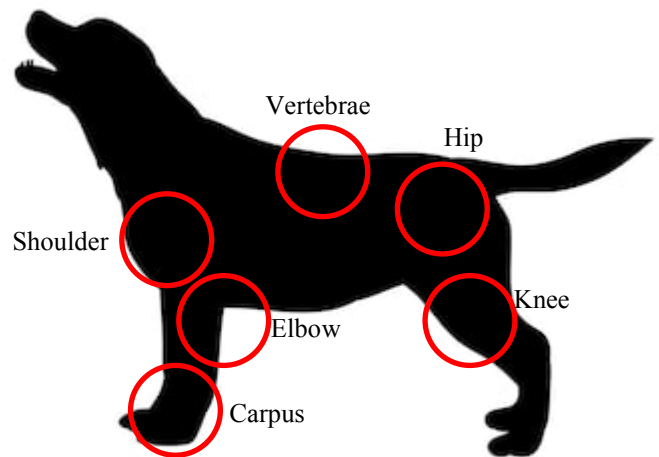
Osteoarthritis (OA) is the most common cause of chronic pain in the dog, affecting 4 out of 5 older dogs. It is a disabling, non-curable and progressive disease which initially effects moving joints but eventually results in widespread problems. It can have an untimely negative affect on your dog's quality of life. Without intervention can lead to a premature end of life BUT by managing the disease this end point can be substantially delayed.

Through working with our team of vets and vet nurses we can offer your dog the best opportunity of a comfortable life for as long as possible. Managing this disease effectively involves attending to many areas such as weight management, home environment adaptations, nutrition and supplements, modifying exercise and routines as well as re-assessing and adjusting these plans as required. Since there is no cure, all treatment options are aimed at managing the problem rather than fixing it.

The level of management and the types of treatment required will change with time as the disease progresses. No single management option will work optimally on its own to treat arthritis. For effective management, several treatment options will be used together. Some of these will require time and effort on your behalf such as exercises to improve posture and muscle tone, changes to the normal daily walks and diet. With this approach we hope to encourage a complete diagnosis and clear direction, as well as ensuring good communication and realistic expectations.

We support CAM - Canine Arthritic Management, an independent team of professionals, from vets to animal behaviourists, physiotherapists to occupational therapists who have joined their knowledge and experience about managing arthritis in dogs. Our vet Sharon Leak is trained in veterinary acupuncture offering appointments at both Settle and Bentham branches as well as at client's homes and visiting physiotherapist Hannah Coates holds clinics at the Settle practice. With this multi-modal approach we hope to be able to successfully manage your arthritic dogs.

If you suspect your dog has arthritis and would like further information please contact the surgery, we hold regular one to one clinics with our veterinary nurses and vets to discuss treatment plans and hints and tips on how to help your pet around the home.



TAKE THE PAIN OUT OF POST-OPERATIVE CARE!



Having an operation on your pet can be stressful enough without having to think about the 'TLC' days afterwards! Many operations will cause your pet to have a wound and with that wound comes management. A simple wound can take on average 10 days to fully heal, something more complicated can take longer and during this period it is advisable to keep this wound clean and prevent your pet from licking or chewing at the operation site.

We do still use the conventional plastic collar as this can, in some situations, be the best option BUT is often not the ONLY option! In today's changing market there are a lot more alternatives to think about and we are here to help find the best solution for you and your pet. We now offer a wide range of postoperative care products such as inflatable collars, soft collars, body suits and body sleeves. These products are becoming hugely popular, not only because it gives you, the owner other options, but because we can tailor them to your pet's own specific needs.

We are here to help! If your pet is having or has had an operation, then our qualified nurses are here to discuss your options, we can help fit collars, shirts and find the best way to ease the healing situation for both you and your pet.



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Check out our website www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk for more information about caring for your pet, special offers, vet and staff profiles and much more!

