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SMALL ANIMAL PRACTICE

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Dalehead

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Companion Animal Newsletter - July 2017



Welcome to our July newsletter and with summer just around the corner we have some interesting articles, hints and tips in this month's edition. We all love getting out and about with our dogs but there are things to be aware of when taking our pets out with us in the hot weather. Take a few minutes to sit down, relax and read our warm weather advice for pets..

As the weather warms up and we all look forward to enjoying the sunshine, however it is important to be aware of the effects the heat can have on our pets. Pets are unable to cool down by releasing sweat from skin pores like we do. Cats, dogs and rabbits do sweat a little bit from their pads but panting is the main way for them to cool down. However, this may not be sufficient in hot and humid weather, so it is up to us to stop them from getting too hot in the first place and if they do overheat, knowing how to treat them...



- Walk your dog at cooler times of the day such as early morning and evening when the temperatures are cooler so they don't overheat or burn their paws on hot surfaces.
- Provide fresh, clean water at all times for your pet, changing it regularly. Take plenty of water with you if you are out for the day.
- If animals are kept outside, make sure they have easy access to shade. Take into consideration the movement of the sun throughout the day and that there is enough shade at all times.
- Pets can get sunburnt especially those with light coloured or thin coats, on exposed areas such as ear tips and noses. Don't allow your pet to stay out in strong sunlight and speak to one of our vets about pet safe sun creams.
- Consider, having your dog's hair cut at the start of summer to keep it cool and groom pets regularly to remove any excess hair from their coats.
- Don't forget small furries and birds - keep their cages out of direct sunlight and avoid locations which tend to heat up quickly.



- Check rabbits twice a day for dirty bottoms as they are prone to maggot infections (flystrike) in warm weather. There are preparations that can be applied which can help prevent flystrike.

!NEVER!

Leave your pet alone in the car on a warm day, even if the window is open, it's cloudy outside or you have a sunshield. The inside car temperature can rise dangerously high within a few minutes and heatstroke is a potentially fatal condition. Signs of heat stroke include:

- Heavy panting
- Excessive salivation
- Lethargy, loss of consciousness and collapse

Vehicle temperature



outside temp	inside car temp	
	10 mins	30 mins
70°	89°	104°
75°	94°	109°
80°	99°	114°
85°	104°	119°
90°	109°	124°
95°	114°	129°

If you think your pet is suffering from heatstroke contact us immediately!

- Move them to a cooler, well ventilated area. Douse them with cool water or wrap them in water soaked towels.
- Do NOT use freezing cold water or allow their temperature to drop too quickly or so low that they start to shiver.
- Allow them to drink cold water, a little and often.
- Even if your pet recovers, do get them examined by a vet to check there is no long term damage.

Travel Sickness

Many puppies first car journey coincides with leaving their mum and being a little frightened and unsure. 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 ever more worried about travelling and the end result can be a puppy suffering from severe car sickness.

Early Training Is Important

Keep your puppy as calm as possible and start with short journeys. After the initial vaccination course is complete, start taking your puppy for a nice walk or play session at the end of car journeys, so that your puppy associates the car with a pleasant reward.

Plan Ahead

- Don't feed your dog just before travelling.
- Plan regular comfort breaks for long journeys.
- A bit of fresh air, stretching legs and a small drink of water will help maintain your pet's wellbeing while travelling.
- If possible, a good long 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 already developed travel sickness problems need behavioural modification, which really just means restarting the training process at a very slow pace.

- Allow your pet to sit or sleep in a comfy bed in the car without travelling anywhere.
- Perhaps offer a much loved toy or treat along with lots of affection and praise.
- 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 stubbornly travel sick cases, the above advice should still be followed but medication can be added in. 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. It is always best to have your pet checked and weighed by your vet before starting new medication.

9 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

DOG car sickness



ONLY
48%

of vets in the UK see at least
1 MOTION SICKNESS CASE
per MONTH

YET
34%

OF TRAVELLING DOGS
have experienced
travel sickness

1 in 6 DOGS that travel suffer from **TRAVEL SICKNESS**



On average, dogs are travel sick on
5 TRIPS EACH YEAR.

1 IN 3 DOG OWNERS
WOULD TRAVEL MORE
with their pet if they did not
suffer from travel sickness



62%

of dogs experience travel
sickness for the first time
when they are puppies

58%

of pet owners
with travel sick dogs
still travel with their dog



> 90%

of pet owners find travelling
with their dog more enjoyable
after using the option available
for canine motion sickness



89%

of owners with dogs
that suffer from travel sickness
said they **would be likely to**
use medication regularly,
after just one use.

Fond Farewell

Our lovely Helen is leaving us to start an exciting new business venture. Helen has been the face of Companion Animal Reception at Dalehead for the past 4 years and we will miss her warm sense of humour and excellent client care. Helen has always been passionate about her role, exceeding client expectations and providing a high level of care. We wish her every success in her future career. For any clients wishing to pop in and wish Helen well, her last day will be 7th July.

We are very pleased to welcome Alison Younger back to the practice as our Companion Animal Coordinator. Ally will join us in September.

