



Tel: (01729) 823538

www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk

COMPANION ANIMAL NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2024

PREPARING FOR TRAVEL ABROAD

It is that time of year when many of us are thinking of escaping Blighty and this lovely Yorkshire weather to seek out the sun and re-charge our solar panels! As such we thought now would be a good time to discuss the steps you need to take if you are looking at taking your pet on holiday with you. The following information relates to European and EU travel. If you are travelling elsewhere visit the government website at <https://www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad> to check the travel requirements. All travelling pets must be microchipped: It is a legal requirement for all dogs over 8 weeks old to be chipped, so this should have already been done. As of 10th June 2024 it will also be a legal requirement for cats over 20 weeks of age to be microchipped.

If you are leaving Great Britain at all (this includes to Northern Ireland) then your animals must be up to date with a rabies vaccination. The rabies vaccination is a single injection that lasts for 3 years. However, your pet cannot travel for 21 days following the vaccination and needs to be at least 12 weeks of age for the vaccination to be effective, so forward planning is essential if travelling overseas.

We will need to see you and your pet within 10 days of your departure date, so one of our vets can issue an Animal Health Certificate. This is an extensive legal document which certifies their rabies vaccination, your identity and your pet's identity. Both you (and the person travelling with your pet if this is not you) and your pet need to be present at this visit as your pet's microchip needs to be clarified and there is a section for you to sign to declare you (or they) are travelling with your pet at all times. Once issued, you must leave the UK within 10 days of the date on the certificate and re-enter the UK within 4 months. You can travel as much as you like within the EU within these 4 months. If you are travelling to Northern Ireland, Ireland, Malta, Norway or Finland, this vet appointment must be within 5 days of travel as a worming treatment must be issued by the vet and certified. When booking this appointment it is essential that you tell us **where** you are entering the EU, **not** your final destination. This is because the certificate must be issued both in English and in the language of the country you are entering; most commonly this is France, but we cannot assume - some people enter via Holland or even Spain.

It is advisable to check any travel requirements for your pet with your booked transport; most ferry companies require dogs to be muzzled at all times whilst on board. Getting your dog muzzle-trained prior to the journey can help as this can be an additional stress to travelling for a dog who isn't used to wearing a muzzle. Our nursing team can help you select and fit the correct muzzle.

The UK is free of the tapeworm called Echinococcus so when returning to the UK a worming treatment must be given between 120 and 24 hours (5-1 days) before returning. This **must** be given by a vet and **certified** on your Animal Health Certificate. The only exception to this is if you are travelling to Northern Ireland, Ireland, Norway, Malta or Finland as this treatment will have been given before you left. Another advisory treatment is a tick prevention, whilst no longer mandatory, there are several species of tick present in Europe that we do not have currently in the UK and it would be better to avoid introduction .

If you would like to discuss this further with our companion animal team, please contact us on 01729 823538

POISONS AWARENESS

Each year we treat several pets for exposure to a variety of different toxic household substances and food. With Mother's Day and Easter just around the corner it is inevitable that there will be an increase of potential toxic foodstuffs around our homes and whilst accidents can happen, there are some important steps you can take as a pet owner to prevent poison exposure.

A few basic tips to help accidental poisoning include;

THINK SPEED!!

- S** - Stop the pet from eating any more suspected poison
- P** - Phone the vets
- E** - Emergency appointment
- E** - Evidence, bring labels and samples (in a safe manner)
- D** - Don't delay!



Keeping our phone number to hand 01729 823538, for advice and promptness helps in these emergency situations for us to prepare for a quick diagnosis and effective treatment for your pet.

- * Mother's Day is coming and enjoying bouquets of flowers in the house can refresh and lift your mood at this time of the year. However, some flowers pose a threat to your cat. One of the most toxic to cats are lilies, all parts of the flower including the vase water. Instead, choose flowers such as sunflowers, zinnia's, roses, freesia and stocks which are all cat friendly options.
- * Easter is coming – make sure chocolate is kept out of the way of sniffing, inquisitive noses. Chocolate toxicity is probably the most common of all poisonings so make sure chocolate is kept out of reach of your pets.
- * Daffodil bulbs (like many bulbs) are toxic to pets. Make sure that your dog does not have access to these, digging them up whilst playing in the garden, park, or fields.
- * Ensuring all prescription medication is safely tucked away in cupboards or in sealed boxes, don't leave them on worksurfaces or in handbags where curious pets may roam.
- * Make sure bins are sealed properly. Fatty, mouldy or spoiled foods and bones are all commonly ingested toxic foods which we regularly treat.



A great website to visit is www.tvm-uk.com. They highlight the most common pet poisons around the home and garden, include sound advice, prevention tips, knowing what to look for; signs, symptoms. It is a useful resource for every pet owner to have either on your computer at home or on your phone.



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!

