

Dear Client,

Welcome to the Summer edition of our companion animal newsletter.

We are now well in to the extension and renovation work at our Bovey Tracey surgery and plan to complete the work in October (fingers crossed). Throughout the work we hope to be able to keep disruption to the minimum. I am sure, for any of you who have had major building work carried out you will understand at times disruption is unfortunately inevitable. Your patience throughout the build is most appreciated.

As we move into summer, we hope the rain stops and our pets will be spending more time outdoors. It's worth thinking about some of the problems this can bring with it. This newsletter highlights some of those problems.

On a sad note, we have had several deceased cats bought into the surgery recently by members of the public. These cats had all received fatal injuries after road traffic incidents. Unfortunately none of the cats bought to us had microchips or any other form of identification so we are unable to locate their owners. Their owners could still be looking for their missing cat, hoping they will return home safe. Unlike dogs there are no legal requirements for cats to be microchipped, but it is times like these that highlight the importance of microchipping your pets. We have also had perfectly healthy non-chipped pets bought in to us that have been found and again we cannot get them home to their owners. So please can we ask if you haven't already done so, contact us today and about booking in your pet to be microchipped. We offer microchipping at £12.50 per pet.

With the above in mind can we remind owners that have microchipped their pet that it is important to keep their microchip registration details up to date. Please feel free to contact us if you are unsure how to do this.

As a practice we strongly recommend that all pet or horse owners insure against veterinary expenses, which can be ongoing and costly. We are happy to complete claim forms free of charge. Please bring in your pets claim form to the practice with a stamped address envelope (if we cannot email the completed claim form) with your section of the form completed in full. We kindly request that all that treatment or consultations are paid for at the time. Insurance companies will then reimburse clients directly.

Lottie Bowden
Practice Manager

FLEAS, MITES AND TICKS

These are parasites that either suck blood or eat skin cells, which any pet could pick up outdoors, and bring into your home, they will also bite people. During warmer weather these insects are more active and searching for food, and our pets spend more time in their habitat, so the risk of picking up fleas and ticks is increased.

There are many different options for control, including tablets, collars and spot-on treatments, so it's worth discussing which would suit your pet best. In general prescription products have much tighter regulations so are both safer and more effective than off-the-shelf products, but be careful as some dog specific products can be toxic to cats. If your animal is unlucky enough to have a tick bite it, they can be removed by gently pulling whilst twisting to break the attachment, do not pull too hard without twisting as you may break the body away from the head which could remain attached; a tick hook is a useful tool for removing ticks. Do not try to smother or irritate the tick as that could cause it to regurgitate into your pet and increase the risk of spreading diseases like Lyme's disease. If you have a dog who picks up lots of ticks it may be worth considering vaccination against Lyme's disease.

Date for the diary...

Chagford Show Thursday 15th August 2019



We will be the duty vets again this year for Chagford Show with Ulli Arnold in attendance. Come and visit our promotional stand near the main ring.

HEAT STROKE AND HEAT EXHAUSTION

This is more common in dogs but can occur in any animal left in too hot environment or over exerting itself in the heat. Heat Exhaustion can happen when an animal over-exercises in the heat, especially if they do not have enough water. On hot days try to exercise dogs early in the morning or late in the evening, always provide lots of water or allow them to swim to cool down. Do not play very active games in the heat. Heat stroke will happen if animals are left in an environment that is too hot for them to be able to cool their body temperature, for instance with dogs in cars with insufficient ventilation in the sun, or animals left in closed conservatories or glasshouses. Both conditions are due to over-heating, and will cause dehydration, distress, excessive panting and eventually animals will become unconscious and can die. Heat stroke is an emergency and affected animals should be brought to a vet as soon as possible. If you think your pet is overheating they should be given plenty of water and can be cooled by dousing them in cool or tepid water – do not use ice cold water as this can cause the blood vessels in the skin to constrict and actually increase your pets core body temperature.

INJURIES

In the summer animals tend to be more active and can injure themselves, we see an increase in sprains and strains from over doing it, and also cuts and more serious injuries associated with being outdoors. If your pet seems to have some discomfort after exercise it is a sensible precaution to allow them to rest for a few days, and consider keeping cats indoors for longer, but if this doesn't clear up it should be checked. More serious injuries may need to be seen immediately. Minor grazes and scratches can be cleaned with saline or cooled boiled water and monitored to ensure they heal, any bleeding or deep injuries should be checked over at the surgery, if they are bleeding a lot you can use a clean tea towel or first aid dressing to apply some pressure whilst you are on your way to us.

POISONING

This time of year dogs especially will pick up all sorts of things on walks, and usually eat them! In general they do have quite strong stomachs, so don't panic if they have eaten something disgusting as it may be the last you will see of it, but do keep an eye on them for the next couple of days for any diarrhoea or vomiting that doesn't resolve in 24hours. If you think they have eaten something toxic such as bulbs, grapes, chocolate, rat poison etc. then please contact us as soon as possible as it may be possible to make them sick to stop the toxicity taking effect.

HOLIDAYS!

If you are going away and leaving your pet with kennels, friends or house-sitters please make sure they know who your normal vet is in case of any emergencies, and it is helpful to let us know you'll be away and the details of who is looking after your pets, as they may need to have authority to give permission for treatment, they may also have to cover the costs of treatment until you return. If you are taking your pet away then to prepare yourself it is useful to research vets in the area who will see emergencies and noting their out-of-hours contact details. If you pet has ongoing medical issues you can give them our details when booking an appointment so we can forward the relevant clinical history in advance.



PET CARE PLANS

Our Pet Care Plans allow you to spread the cost of your pet's preventative health care needs (parasite control, vaccinations and more) throughout the year with easy monthly direct debit payments, at a date that suits you.

Our Pet Care Plans works perfectly with Pet Insurance – allowing all your pets care to be covered by monthly payments.

Practice Facilities

Appointment System
Parking
24 Hour Emergency Service
Modern Surgical Facilities
Nurse Clinics
In-House Laboratory
Digital X Ray Machine
Endoscopy
Pet Care Plans

BOVEY TRACEY SURGERY

Mill House, Station Road,
Bovey Tracey, Newton
Abbot, TQ13 9AL
TELEPHONE ; 01626
833023

MORETONHAMPSTEAD SURGERY

31 Court Street,
Moretonhampstead,
Newton Abbot, TQ13 8LG
TELEPHONE ; 01647
440441

CHRISTOW SURGERY

Old Mines Road, Christow,
Exeter, EX6 7NS
For appointments/repeat
prescriptions etc.
telephone; 01626 833023

FOR OUT OF HOUR EMERGENCIES PLEASE

TELEPHONE : 01647
440441

www.moorgatevets.co.uk

