



Best Friends Veterinary Group Newsletter

SUMMER 2012

Keeping Your Pet Happy During the Summer Holiday Season

Many of us will be looking forward to going on holiday this summer, but for pets this can be a stressful time. Thankfully there are lots of things you can do to help keep them happy while you are on holiday in the UK or abroad.

General Tips

Regardless of where you are going on holiday, if you are taking your pet/s with you or if someone else will be taking care of them for you while you are away, there are a few things that can help in all circumstances:

- Ensure favourite toys, beds and blankets that smell of home accompany your pet, rather than those that have been freshly laundered
- Provide the food they are used to having at home, this will help prevent fussy eating either while away from home or on your return
- If you know your pet is of a nervous disposition it may be worth buying a pheromone diffuser, these look like a fragrance plug-in and slowly release pheromones into the air that should help to make your pet feel safer in their environment. Royal Canin also produce a range of food that works in a similar way, so speak to a member of the team at your local practice and they will be happy to discuss if either of these approaches may be of benefit for your pet

Preparing for Kennels & Catteries

If your pet is going into kennels or a cattery while you are on holiday you will need to check what is required

by that establishment, however most will expect your pet/s to be fully vaccinated (including against Kennel Cough for dogs and Leukaemia for Cats), as well as that they are up to date with flea and worming treatments.

Holidaying with Your Dog in the UK

Whilst many dogs love travelling by car, unfortunately about a third of all dogs get travel sick, which is no fun for anyone. If you know your dog is one of the unlucky ones:

- Give food in plenty of time before travelling
- Open a window to allow air in
- Take regular breaks on long journeys and make fresh water available
- If possible encourage your dog to look out of the front or rear window, this will allow them to fix on a distant object (such as the horizon) and should reduce feelings of nausea
- Speak to your Vet about medication, there is now a non drowsy tablet that can be prescribed that your dog may benefit from taking
- Consider use of a pheromone diffuser in the car

You should also consider whether your dog will travel in the car boot, in a crate or on a car seat, and whether a harness is required to keep them safe while on the road.

If your dog is lucky enough to be exploring the great outdoors with you on holiday it is advisable to check with your Vet that they are protected from



a wide range of parasites and not just fleas. Just as with humans, dogs will also be a tasty treat or great new home for many unwanted bugs that they may not normally come into contact with, but can easily be prevented with a spot on treatment from your local practice.

We hope you've found this information useful, however if you have any questions or queries please feel free to pop in or call your local practice for more advice, and whatever you are doing this summer we hope you and your pet/s have a great time!

Special Offers

Dental Care Month

Dog owners can book a free dental check for their dog and receive a complimentary Dentastix throughout June.

5% Off Pet Insurance

We are pleased to announce that all Healthy Paws Plan members will now receive an additional 5% off Best Friends 4 Life Pet Insurance.

The Importance of Vaccinations

The diseases Vets vaccinate our pets against are generally very difficult, if not impossible, to treat successfully if contracted, which is why we feel so strongly about vaccinating pets.

How do pets contract diseases that can be vaccinated against?

Whilst an unvaccinated animal can spread infection directly to another it is unlikely that as an owner you would allow your healthy pet to have contact with such an infected animal. It is therefore far more likely for pets to contract these diseases indirectly from the environments. Contact with standing water contaminated with rat urine can be enough to transmit some, others can be through contaminated food/bedding, carrier species such as biting insects or even brought into your home on your shoes.

How often should pets be vaccinated & what are they vaccinated against?

Cats and dogs should both ideally have a full course of vaccinations to start their immunity, which is two injections several weeks apart. After this they will require a booster

Surgery Numbers

Billericay	01277 651009	Peterborough, Broadway	01733 562904
Chatteris	01354 692309	Rainham	01708 555788
Dagenham	0208 595 5818	Romford	01708 762266
Holbech	01406 426222	South Woodham Ferrers	01245 321717
Isle of Dogs	0207 536 7555	Shenfield	01277 221193
Leicester	01162 517677	Sawtry	01487 830595
March	01354 653435	Thrapston	01832 731731
Mile End	0207 790 4599	Whittlesey	01733 208090
Milton Keynes	01908 270144	Yaxley	01733 243000
Oakham	01572 770011		
Oakhill	0208 527 0034		

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A Big Thank You to Pfizer Animal Health who have helped make this newsletter possible.



every 12 months for the rest of their life to keep their immunity up. Cats are vaccinated against Cat Flu, Feline Enteritis and Feline Leukaemia Virus. Dogs are vaccinated against Adenovirus, Distemper, Infectious Canine Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza and Leptospirosis.

Rabbits also require annual vaccination, however only require one injection to start their immunity. We vaccinate against Myxomatosis and Viral Haemorrhagic Disease.

HEALTHY PAWS PLAN

Preventative Care for Your Pet Made Easy & Affordable with Monthly Direct Debit

Ask how
you can get
10% OFF
all your vets bills
that's 10% OFF everything
supplied by us inc
food & toys

Ask a Member of Staff How to Sign Up Today!