

Arnwood Veterinary Clinics *at...*

NEWS

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New website!

We would like to introduce our website to you. Check it out at:

www.arnwoodvets.co.uk

From the homepage you are able to read about the practice and follow the links to connect you to further information.

You can click on services to read about our facilities at the practice and the services we offer.

If you click onto the team link, you can see photo's of the vets, nurses and receptionists including some staff animals.

The download section contains back copies of the newsletters and also money off vouchers.

We are excited to be able offer you online appointments. You will need your personal client ID number, which you can get from the surgery (or from an invoice) if you are an existing client or you can register online as a new client, then you are able to make appointments at your convenience even when the surgery is closed just click on shop and appt's link and follow the online instructions. You will soon be able to purchase many of our products online. If you require a prescription and your animal has been checked by one of the vets within the last three months we can take requests via the prescriptions link. You can read all about our special stories or interact with our blogs by clicking on the links. The LifeLearn link is full of information and educational material on all aspects of pet care from illnesses to behaviour and it includes many different species, not just dogs and cats. If you want to check out the opening hours or get address details of all the branches click on contact us, you are also able to email us via this link. Finally if you have an animal that you are worried about and are unsure if you need to see a vet, then clicking on the www.vethelpdirect.com link from the home page will direct you to an online guide and after just a

Wriggle your way out of this one!



ALTHOUGH it's not a pleasant thought, our pets are constantly at risk of acquiring worms. Until recently, our main concerns regarding worms have been to ensure dogs and cats are protected against **roundworms** and **tapeworms** –

both of which live in the **intestines**. In addition, an increasing problem in dogs (but not cats) is **lungworm** infestation with *Angiostrongylus vasorum* – see panel right for information.



Roundworms can grow up to 20cm in length and live in the intestines of dogs and cats. They shed thousands of tiny eggs which pass out in the faeces and contaminate the environment, where the eggs can survive for years. Dogs and cats are reinfected by inadvertently eating the eggs. The eggs also pose some risk to children if they are unwittingly swallowed.



Tapeworms also live in the intestines and can grow up to 5m in length. They shed small segments containing eggs which pass out in the faeces, or which may be found around the tail area. As the segments break down, the eggs may be eaten by an **intermediate host**; these include small rodents (e.g. mice) and fleas. Cats commonly catch and eat small rodents and both cats and dogs swallow fleas as they groom themselves, thus reinfesting themselves with tapeworms.

The good news is that worms can be prevented by following a few simple rules: worm your pets regularly, use regular flea control, try to avoid dogs eating snails, slugs and frogs and keep gardens clear of faeces. Please let us advise you on the most suitable worm and flea regime for your pets!

Lungworm in dogs

Lungworm infestation, caused by the parasite *Angiostrongylus vasorum* is something that all dog owners should be aware of. *Angiostrongylus vasorum* can cause a wide range of symptoms – some severe, including coughing, lethargy, fits and blood clotting problems. However other pets may show no obvious signs of problems.



Adult *A. vasorum* lungworm
 These live in the heart and pulmonary arteries

So what is the life-cycle?

In infected dogs, *A. vasorum* lungworms live in the pulmonary arteries and right ventricle of the heart. Here they lay eggs, which hatch into larvae and in turn migrate into the airways of the lung. Larvae are then coughed up, swallowed and passed in the dog's faeces.

Slugs, snails and frogs act as **intermediate hosts**, ingesting the larvae. The intermediate hosts are in turn eaten by dogs (often unwittingly) and the larvae then migrate to the heart and develop into adult worms.



few simple questions you will be advised as to the action you need to take.

Our friendly receptionists are happy to take your calls at all three of our surgeries if you have any problems. Our qualified nurse Marie is trialling canine behaviour clinics for none aggressive cases, if you feel this would be of benefit to you and are able to come to the surgery around lunch time and you have had your dog checked by one of the vets and given the all clear, that a medical condition is not causing the problem, then please contact the surgery to make an appointment. Appointment times are limited and these cannot be booked online as the appointments take an average of an hour.



All our surgeries are open from 9.00 until 18.00 Monday to Friday and Sherwood and Arnwood are open on Saturday till noon. **You can now book appointments via the internet go to arnwoodvets.co.uk for more information.** In case of emergency outside these hours please contact Vetsnow on (0115) 9789143



Beat the heat this summer!

AS WE enjoy the warm sunny summer weather it's worth sparing a thought for our four legged friends. Here we look at a few steps you can take to keep them fit and well!

- Make sure fresh clean water is always available to all pets – you may even need to take some on walks and avoid exercise in the heat of the day – particularly with old, overweight dogs with heart problems; stick to early mornings and evenings.
- Cats are natural sun bathers, but cats with white noses and ear tips are particularly vulnerable to sun burn and subsequent skin cancer. This risk can be reduced by keeping them out of the sun, or by applying sunblock to these areas during the summer months.
- Watch out also for grass seeds (awns) of the meadow grasses. They commonly become trapped in dogs ears – causing violent head shaking, or may become embedded in the feet or other areas.
- Bee and wasp stings are another seasonal problem. Some pets are allergic to their stings and may need prompt veterinary attention.
- If your pet is going into kennels this summer, don't forget to make sure they are up to date with their vaccinations!
- Don't forget to keep treating your pets regularly against fleas, ticks and worms and **never ever leave a pet in a car on a hot day.**



Ear tip of a cat showing cancerous changes



Grass awns of the summer grasses



Paw of a dog with an inter-digital cyst caused by a grass seed



Bees and wasps can be a summer hazard for inquisitive pets



Help me – I'm lost....

HAVE YOU ever wondered how you would cope if your pet went missing? Regardless of how much you care for them you can't be in control all the time; cats roam very widely and dogs may stray. If your pet does become lost or is injured, it is essential that he or she can be reliably identified. Sadly, many pets are never reunited with their owners due to lack of identification.

The good news is that in addition to the traditional collar and tag (which can unfortunately become detached and lost), modern technology has come to our aid – giving us a far more reliable form of pet identification – the microchip implant.

A tiny microchip (about the size of a grain of rice) is quickly and easily implanted under the skin, permanently identifying your pet. Each microchip contains a unique code which identifies your pet and these details are stored on a central computer database. Should your pet go missing, when found, the chip can be read using special hand held scanners (see photo right). Veterinary practices, the police and animal welfare organisations routinely scan strays, hopefully ensuring that if the unthinkable happens, you can be speedily reunited. For further information or to have your pet microchipped, please contact us today!



Microchip implant



Thyroid disease – is your pet affected?

MOST of us have heard of the thyroid gland, but did you know that thyroid problems are surprisingly common in pets?

The thyroid gland consists of two lobes, located on either side of the trachea (windpipe) in the neck – see diagram. The thyroid gland produces thyroid hormone which regulates your pet's metabolic rate. Too much thyroid hormone speeds up the body's metabolism, whilst too little slows it down.

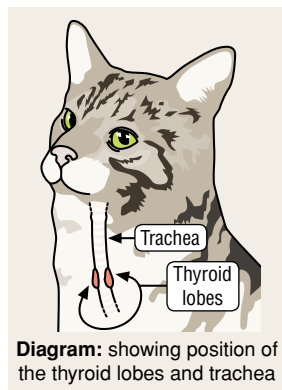
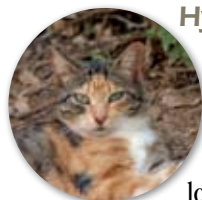


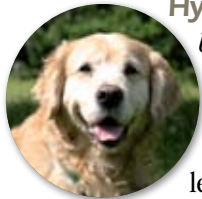
Diagram: showing position of the thyroid lobes and trachea

Hyperthyroidism in cats



Over production of thyroid hormone is called *hyper*-thyroidism and is a relatively common condition in cats over eight years of age. In the majority of cases this is caused by benign (non-cancerous) enlargement of one or both thyroid lobes. Hyperthyroid cats typically have an increased appetite, but *despite* this show signs of weight loss, and often become quite unkempt in appearance. In addition, excess thyroid hormone usually increases the heart rate, frequently causing cardiac problems. As well as the above, a variety of other signs may be seen including hyperactivity, vomiting and diarrhoea. However the good news is that in the majority of cases, hyperthyroidism can be successfully treated. If you are concerned your cat may be hyperthyroid, come and see us for a check-up.

Hypothyroidism in dogs



Under production of thyroid hormone is called *hypo*thyroidism, and is a relatively common condition in the older dog. Lowered production of thyroid hormone leads to a decrease in the metabolic rate, usually leading to weight gain (with no increased appetite) and generalised lethargy. Other signs often include coat problems, and recurrent skin and ear infections.

Diagnosis of hypothyroidism can be more tricky, but in confirmed cases, daily treatment with oral thyroid supplements can be very successful in treating this condition.

As you can see, thyroid conditions are relatively common in pets, but the really good news is that with an appropriate diagnosis, *both* conditions are very treatable. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you are concerned that your pet is showing any of the signs described above!