

Hot Weather Advice for Pets

- Walk dogs at the coolest times of the day, early morning or late evening
- Check the temperature of the surface that you are walking on - if the tarmac is too hot for your bare feet, it is too hot for your dog's paws
- Try to encourage your dog to walk rather than run if possible, so no ball or chase games and try to walk where your dog is not likely to want to go off hunting
- Take special care if you have a brachycephalic breed (dogs with 'squashed' muzzles) these dogs find it hard to pant efficiently with their short noses and narrow nostrils. Furthermore, they are prone to having overly long soft palates which makes their airways narrow. Some may benefit from surgical intervention
- Don't let your dog swim in water that is covered by algae. Blue green algae is toxic
- Consider having long haired dogs clipped
- Apply sun block to the tips of ears, noses and any hairless areas of white cats, dogs rabbits and bald areas on hens to prevent sunburn
- For small pets, ensure that they are not housed near windows. It might be shaded at certain points of the day but could be in full sun at others
- Ensure that small pets have water available at all times and consider offering a small bowl as well as a bottle
- Check rabbits and poultry daily. Fly strike (maggot infestation) happens quickly and catching it early can make all the difference. Check beneath the tail or vent in poultry especially. Flies will leave small white/cream clumps which quickly develop into maggots in the heat. Provide plenty of shade and fresh drinking water



MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE INCLUDING HOW TO SPOT THE SIGNS OF HEATSTROKE: www.eastcottvets.co.uk/hot-weather

Encouraging Cats to Drink

Cats can be quirky eaters and also quirky drinkers. It is important for them to drink sufficient quantities, particularly if they are prone to kidney or urinary disease. Whilst many of us provide our cats with milk, it is not a natural thing for cats to drink and they don't digest it well. Water is much better for them



To encourage them to drink more, here are some handy tips:

- Cats like to lap from a full bowl! Keep bowls filled to the brim
- Some like to drink from a running or dripping tap
- Consider a pet water fountain
- Refresh water regularly. We all know how unpleasant a glass of water can be when it has sat overnight
- Some prefer rainwater (this can also apply to dogs)
- If your cat is not a great drinker and you need to increase their fluid uptake, consider changing from dry to wet food
- Consider the location of the water bowl. It should not be near to a litter tray for instance
- Have more than 1 water bowl available throughout the house in warm weather particularly
- If giving milk, consider switching to 'cat milk' which can be purchased from pet shops and is digestible for cats

FACT OR FICTION?

You shouldn't play tug of war with your dog.

If you have been holding back from playing tug of war because you have heard that it makes dogs aggressive, the great news is that you don't have to! Contrary to what some may say, tug is a great game to play with most dogs - as long as you and your canine pal play by the rules. The game should be equal on both sides, sometimes you win, sometimes your dog wins.

The benefits are:

- Tug-of-war is a fun way for you to bond with your dog
- Played properly, it teaches your dog impulse control. Dogs aren't born knowing what you mean by 'drop' or 'give', this has to be taught (using kind force free methods). Despite how much they want to keep tugging, you will be asking them to control their urge and to release the toy
- When dogs mouth at you, tug-of-war can be used for redirection. This can help show your dog that it's appropriate to chew on the toy but not on your arm
- It can be a way of releasing pent up energy and decreases the chances of boredom or stress-related negative behaviours by leaving your dog happy and exhausted
- It allows for 'rough housing' play that has ground rules and means you are not using your hand or arms to engage in that type of activity
- Dogs can love tug-of-war so much that it can be used as positive reinforcement during training sessions

The benefits far outweigh the outdated myth that it causes aggression.

You can read more about how to teach your dog the rules of tug of war and other training tips, visit www.speakdog.co.uk/blog





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- Bad Breath
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- Loose Teeth
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- Dribbling
- Pawing or Rubbing the Mouth
- Bleeding Gums
- Yellow or Brown Tartar on Teeth



PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE
Ask our Vets or Nurses how to look after your pet's teeth

Recommend a Friend

PRIZE DRAW

Congratulations to Mrs Gratton who wins £100 in Eastcott Vets vouchers to spend on her pets Nala and Se'Ren

To read more about Recommend a Friend, visit our website or pick up a form from one of our waiting rooms.



What happens to patients when the surgery closes?

When some veterinary surgeries close at the end of the day there is no provision for overnight patients. Some send any patients that need overnight care elsewhere to be cared for. They are then transported back again the next morning, a stressful and far from ideal situation for sick animals. A Veterinary Hospital has to "Ensure nursing staff are present on the premises round the clock, and a veterinary surgeon available 24

hours a day to attend to in-patients, if required" *. This usually means that a member of the nursing staff will live/sleep in flats above the surgery and pop downstairs to check on a critical patient once or twice during the night. If there is a problem, they will phone a vet at home who will provide advice or travel in to see the patient. At Eastcott Vets however, we provide much more than the bare minimum. We have a qualified Veterinary 'Night'

Nurse and a Veterinary Surgeon who work throughout the night. Patients are cared for throughout the night until they are handed over during 'morning rounds' to the staff that come in to take over their care in the morning.

These staff are also available for out of hours emergency patients.

**RCVS Core standards for a Veterinary Hospital*

Is it dangerous for a dog to eat horse manure?

Many dogs are partial to eating horse manure, so much so that for some the 'leave it' command, seems to be translated by them as 'quickly eat as much as you can!'. On the whole the manure will pass through, often looking the same as it did when it was eaten, but for some dogs, it may cause a problem. If the horse has recently been treated for worms with a chemical called ivermectin it can have passed out in manure for a few days. A dog that eats a large amount of horse poo containing ivermectin could become very ill. There are a number of breeds however that have a gene mutation that makes them particularly sensitive and therefore at risk. Dogs that can have this mutation include Collies, Shelties, Australian Shepherds, Old English Sheepdogs, long-haired Whippets, Merle Pomeranians and

potentially other herding breeds as well as some dogs with white feet.

Dogs that have suspected ivermectin toxicity may show the following symptoms and should be seen by a vet as soon as possible:

- Dilated (large) pupils
- Poor balance
- Disorientation
- Lethargy
- Vomiting
- Drooling
- Seizures



Why are cats drawn to people who don't like cats?



Cat owners may recognise this scenario. The visitor who doesn't like cats ends up with a cat on their lap 'kneading away' enthusiastically or frantically rubbing themselves up against their legs. The visitor who loves cats, however, receives a haughty response, often being completely ignored. Why is this? Cat lovers tend to widen their eyes, are vocal and may extend a hand or pursue the cat in an attempt to stroke them. Non-cat lovers however often narrow their eyes, turn away and will avoid any contact or interaction with the cat. A cat will find the most attractive person in the room the one that they perceive as the least threatening and, in this instance, it will be the person that least wants to have any contact.

Skin allergies in dogs and cats

Did you know that dogs and cats can get skin allergies similar to eczema in humans?

The most common allergies that we recognise in dogs and cats are to fleas, their food or to house dust mites and pollens. An allergy to house dust mites and pollens in dogs is called atopic dermatitis. Often pets affected by this condition will itch, lick or chew excessively especially during the spring and summer months when the pollen count is high. The most commonly affected areas are the face and feet.

The good news is that although this condition cannot be cured it can be well managed in the majority of patients with various different medications. We are even able

to perform an allergy test to try and identify what your pet is allergic to and make up a special vaccination called immunotherapy to help manage their condition which works in 60-70% of dogs.



If you have noticed that your dog is licking its feet or scratching more than usual, mention it to your vet.

Pet Insurance Cover Updates and Information

For those insured with Pet Plan

Dental Treatment Provision

Your pet must have a dental examination by a vet at least once every 12 months. Any treatment recommended as a result of this examination must be carried out within 3 months of the examination taking place.

If you are not insured with Petplan, we would advise that you check whether your insurer has a similar policy regarding dental treatment.

Lifetime Pet Cover Policies

Petplan - New claim submission rules

Old Conditions: Claim form must be submitted no later than 31 days after treatment finishes

New Conditions: Claim form must be submitted no later than 90 days after treatment finishes

If you have a policy that was taken out before last year and hasn't renewed yet this year, you will be subject to the 31 day submission for all conditions, new and existing, until the policy renews and the terms and conditions are updated.

If your policy has renewed this year, or you have taken out the policy this year, you will be subject to the 90-day submission period.

Animal Friends

New Conditions: Claim form must be submitted no later than 90 days after treatment finishes. This also applies to Animal Friends cover

Edison Park Clinic & Hospital

Edison Park, Dorcan Way, Swindon SN3 3FR
For Sat Nav use SN3 3RB
Mon to Fri 7am - 8pm Sat & Sun 8.30am - 8pm

Bath Road Clinic

59 Bath Road, Old Town, Swindon SN1 4AU
Mon - Fri 8.30am - 7pm Sat 9am - 12pm

Cricklade Road Clinic

6 Clive Parade, Cricklade Road, Swindon SN2 1AJ
Weekdays 8.30am - 10am and 4pm - 7pm