

# NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024



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## Welcome

Welcome to the summer edition of the Rutland Veterinary Centre Newsletter.

We hope you enjoy reading more about what the team get up to and hopefully find the content to be interesting and informative.

As always we welcome any feedback and suggestions for future issues.

## RCVS Accreditation

We are thrilled to announce all our practices are now accredited through the RCVS practice standards scheme! To become accredited, practices have to go through rigorous assessment every four years (and spot checks) and will have met a range of minimum standards including hygiene, 24-hour emergency cover, staff training, provision of various equipment, and effective procedures for communicating with clients.

In addition to the core standards, our Uppingham practice has also achieved hospital status! This involves meeting further requirements including the provision of 24 hour care on site, performance monitoring and the availability of more specialist equipment.



# PetsApp Update

We have now fully integrated our practice management system with PetsApp! Along with being able to message the team, send and receive photos and pay bills - this integration now means you can:

- Book straight onto our diary
- Receive appointment reminders
- Get booster and treatment notifications

Click the booking link on our website to book an appointment, or download PetsApp on your phone to access all the benefits!

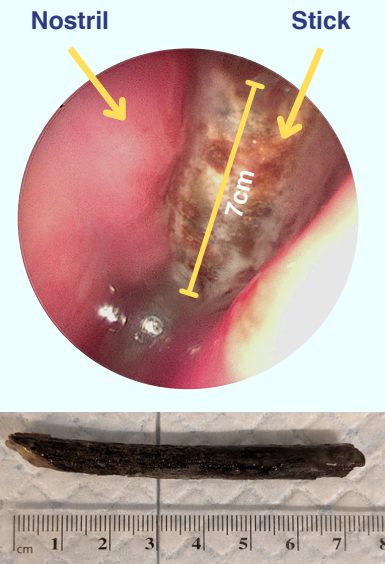


## Stick season

Last month we met Spud, a lovely dog that was brought in as he had started sneezing with some bloody discharge. On an initial conscious examination, the veterinary surgeon was not able to distinguish an obvious cause. After a few days on prescribed pain relief with no improvement, Spud was admitted for further investigations.

Whilst under a general anaesthetic, the veterinary surgeon was able to use a rhinoscopy scope to look further up the nostrils. Upon scoping the left nostril, it became apparent that there was a foreign body present.

This was successfully removed providing Spud with some much needed relief! The offending object turned out to be a 7cm stick!



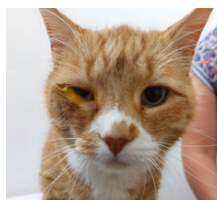
## Grass seeds

Grass seeds are a common problem during the summer. Their shape allows them to burrow into our pets causing all kinds of damage.

### Symptoms:

- **Ears:** scratching or shaking their head.
- **Eyes:** painful, weepy eye.
- **Paw:** licking, redness and swelling.
- **Elsewhere:** Grass seeds can travel around the body causing more vague symptoms such as a non-healing wound, low energy or a temperature.

If your pet has been out in long grass, always check them for grass seeds. It's important to remove grass seeds quickly, because their pointy shape enables them to pierce through skin, causing problems such as infections and abscesses.



## Ticks

Ticks are most active from March to October, living in long grass and woodlands. They attach themselves to passing pets, and feed off their blood for several days. They can spread a range of tick-borne diseases including:

**Lymes disease** – affected pets (and humans) can develop swollen joints and stiffness.

**Babesiosis** - destroys red blood cells causing acute anaemia.

**Erlchiosis** - attacks red blood cells, can be fatal.

Both Babesiosis and Erlchiosis are prevalent in mainland Europe, so if you take your dog abroad, it is essential to protect against ticks.

**Removal:** No tick product is 100% effective. Pets should also be checked frequently for ticks and any that are found should be removed using a special tick remover.

**Contact us if you need help with a tick!**



**PETS ON OUR LIFETIME CARE CLUB RECEIVE MONTHLY PROTECTION AGAINST TICKS!**

# Warm weather advice

- Ensure your pets have access to plenty of fresh water and shade all day - don't forget rabbits and guinea pigs too!
- Avoid vigorous exercise in the hot weather
- Walk your dog when it's cooler, early morning or late evening
- Give your pet damp towels to lie on, freeze some treats or set up a paddling pool!
- **Temperatures over 20°C can put pets at risk of heatstroke, please take care and watch out for the signs: difficulty breathing; excessive drooling; pacing or restlessness; vomiting or diarrhoea; weakness or collapse.**



# Stay safe at the beach!

Dogs love the beach but read our tips to make sure they stay safe!

- Watch out for your dog swallowing sand.
- Rinse away sand with fresh water especially between toes and pads.
- Stop your dog eating leftovers and dead marine life as they can contain dangerous toxins.
- Stop your dog drinking sea water. It's salty and can contain parasites and may make your pet vomit.
- Always remember the sea is powerful! Tides, undercurrents and waves can take the most confident dog by surprise.



# Flystrike

## Symptoms of flystrike

Flystrike occurs when flies lay their eggs on susceptible animals. The eggs hatch out to maggots which start to feed on the animal. This usually occurs around the bottom area on rabbits and they can cause nasty open wounds. Rabbits with flystrike may be seen either frantically grooming at this area trying to get rid of the maggots or they may be very quiet and still due to being so poorly.

## Treatment

Maggots must first be removed. Following this the wounds need to be thoroughly cleaned. Sometimes this can be done conscious however if the wounds are severe we may need to use a general anaesthetic. Flystrike can cause severe pain, dehydration and infection so treatment can also require pain relief, antibiotics and intravenous fluids. Unfortunately, in severe cases, the only humane option is euthanasia ('put to sleep').

## How can flystrike be prevented?



The most important thing when preventing flystrike is a clean environment. It is also important to regularly check your rabbit's bottom and ensure cleanliness and to pick up early signs of fly eggs. This should be done at least once daily and twice daily in warm weather. Fly eggs can hatch out in less than 24 hours in optimal conditions.

You can also apply a flystrike prevention treatment. Products should be used throughout the fly season, which runs from about May to October. Rabbits that are part of our **Lifetime Care Club** get a bottle of Rearguard included!



# Veterinary myths debunked...

## “It is ok to let your pet lick a wound to clean it”

This is a common misconception...

Pets often try and lick their wounds, it is an instinctive behaviour thought to help soothe their pain, clean their wounds and can even kill certain bacteria. However, if pets are left to clean wounds themselves, it could end up causing more damage. Licking can irritate their injuries, slow down the healing process and introduce harmful bacteria leading to infections. It also provides a warm, wet environment that is perfect for bacteria to breed.

Our advice is to prevent your pet from getting to the wound by using a buster collar ('cone of shame') or medical pet shirt (like a baby grow for pets) until the area has fully healed. Bandages can be used to try to prevent dogs from getting at certain types of wounds, however they are not always appropriate and need careful monitoring.

If your pet has a wound look out for any redness, swelling, heat or discharge. If you notice any of these signs or if it seems painful or it is taking a long time to heal, please get in touch. The vet will check it over to see if there is an infection.



## Lifetime Care Club

Quality care made more affordable with convenient monthly payments

### Membership provides your pet with:

- Annual vaccinations and health check
- Year round flea and worming\*
- Monthly nurse checks
- Discounts on consultations, selected procedures, long term medications, food and pet shop products
- Rabbits benefit from Reargard treatment and a monthly bag of hay or pellets

\*Dogs and cats only

To find out more, sign up and start saving money

[CLICK HERE](#) 

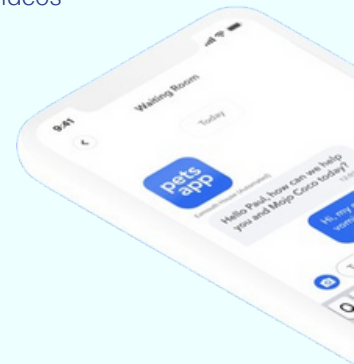
## Book Online!

Need an appointment?

... why not book online through our website or by downloading our app - PetsApp

### With PetsApp you can:

- Send and receive pictures and videos
- Book appointments
- Order medication
- Ask for advice
- Request invoices
- Make secure payments
- Give us feedback



This newsletter is provided as an informal information service to our clients who are interested in what goes on at the practice.

The information contained should not be treated as a substitute for veterinary advice.

Please contact the practice if you have an issue with your pet.

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### Need us in an emergency?

Please call the practice.

We operate our own out of hours service at our Uppingham practice for all our registered clients

