

Small Animal Practice News

Summer
2019



P2. Pet First Aid Event

P2. Pet Care

P3. Heatstroke

P4. Pet Hero

Langford Vets



University of
BRISTOL

Welcome

Welcome to our Small Animal Practice Summer 2019 newsletter.

In this edition we have seasonal advice for pet care, covering topics such as coping in hot weather, local parasite advice and dealing with adder bites.

Our Pet Hero is a less common species for veterinary care. In the local area we have clients who keep small numbers of poultry and water fowl, some of which need veterinary care occasionally and we are happy to see these cases.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and please let us know what you think:

langfordvets.co.uk/small-animal-practice/small-animal-practice-newsletters/

Have a healthy and happy summer!

James Allsop, Clinical Lead



Supporting you and your pet for life

Our friendly team provide the following services and more:

- Puppy training
- TLC - The Langford Club
- Fear free training support
- Clinical support and guidance
- Pet first aid courses
- Our relationship with the University of Bristol ensures we have modern clinical training and facilities and easy access to the Small Animal Referral Hospital where needed.

Rabbit Awareness Award

We are proud to have been awarded silver rabbit friendly status by the Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund.

We have been sharing tips, including the importance of vaccinations and regular health checks. Why not check out our social media pages for tips.



 /langfordvetssap

 @langfordvets

Pet Care



Parasites

Unfortunately, fleas, ticks and worms all start to grow in number around Spring / Summer as the weather warms up. This increases the chances of your pet coming into contact with them, and potentially getting infected.

Thankfully parasites are easily prevented by speaking to one of our vets about different treatment options. Prevention is definitely easier than a cure so we strongly recommend that your dog or cat is protected all year round from fleas, ticks and worms as, despite seasonal peaks, these can all infect your pet throughout the year.

Adder Bites

Adders are the UK's only venomous snake and come out of hibernation in Spring. Although usually placid, if disturbed adders can bite causing significant pain and swelling. Approximately 5% of dogs become seriously ill following an adder bite, so it is important that if your dog is bitten (or you suspected they may have been) then contact us immediately. Your dog should be carried to the car and into the practice on arrival to limit the spread of the poison.

Adders are rare, so there is little you can do to limit exposure. Therefore being 'adder aware' and knowing where to go in case of an emergency is the best way to prepare.



Bee and Wasp Stings

Just like us, our pets can have a range of reactions to bee and wasp stings. At their least dangerous, stings are merely a painful inconvenience. At their worst, however, extreme immune reactions can cause serious swellings which can be a major concern. If you see bees or wasps inside your home, then safely remove them from any area your pet may have access to. Keep an eye on your pet when outside to make sure they are not investigating or playing with any bees or wasps. Lastly, it is a good idea to keep our details handy should you need them and to contact us immediately if you notice any unusual swellings on your pet.



Heatstroke

What is heatstroke?

When temperatures begin to soar, a common issue that all pet owners should be aware of is heatstroke (also known as heat stress). With the heat of the summer months, the number of cats and dogs visiting us due to this condition rises. Unfortunately, many pet owners do not realise that their cats and dogs can overheat when the weather is hot and may only seek treatment at the eleventh hour.

Cats and dogs cannot respond to heat in the same way that us humans do. We have sweat glands all over our bodies that help us regulate our temperature, but dogs and cats only have a few in their feet and around their noses. Many animals rely on panting and external cooling to lose heat. Their long, thick coats can also predispose them to heat stroke.

Because they are not able to cool themselves down as easily as us, we must ensure we take steps to help them to do this (see our tips below). Pets are very susceptible to heat stroke – and it can happen a lot faster than you may think.

Heatstroke is a very serious, life threatening condition: it can cause damage to your pet's internal organs, sometimes to the point where they stop functioning and can be rapidly fatal – it requires **urgent treatment!**

Here are our top tips for preventing heatstroke in your pet

- Make sure they have access to a cool, well-ventilated space. Good ventilation is critical because many animals lose heat by panting (evaporative cooling) which relies on good air flow. Outdoor pets should always have access to shade.
- All pets should always have access to plenty of fresh clean drinking water.
- Never leave your pet in a car as temperatures inside rise extremely quickly, even on mild days and can kill pets rapidly.
- Avoid exercising animals in hot weather.
- Avoid hot sand, concrete, asphalt areas or any other areas where heat is reflected and there is no access to shade.

Signs your pet may be in heat distress?

- Panting (this increases as heatstroke progresses)
- Drooling, salivating
- Agitation, restlessness
- Very red or pale gums
- Bright red tongue
- Increased heart rate
- Vomiting / diarrhoea (possibly with blood)
- Breathing distress
- Signs of confusion / delirium
- Dizziness, staggering
- Lethargy, weakness
- Muscle tremors
- Seizures
- Collapsing and lying down
- Little to no urine production
- Coma

What to do if you suspect your pet has heatstroke

It is always a good idea to know how to do emergency first aid at home if you suspect your pet has heatstroke. Initial emergency treatment at home should aim to normalise body temperature.

- Remove your pet from the hot environment immediately
- Apply or spray tepid / cool water onto your pet's fur or skin (don't use ice cold water or ice as this can worsen the problem). Then try a fan or fanning to maximise heat loss.
- Wetting down the area around your pet can also help
- Bring your pet in to see us immediately!
- Heatstroke is an emergency - always make sure you see a vet. Even if your pet looks like they may be recovering, or you suspect they might have heatstroke they should still always be checked by a vet.

With the right measures in place and the proper precautions taken, there is no reason why you and your pets can't safely enjoy the summer weather together (while it lasts).



Pet Hero: Misty



This month's Pet hero is Misty

Misty is in a small group of our patients not falling into the category of cat or dog! She's a very sweet 'Call Duck', a domesticated duck with a rather loud quack! These big characters in little bodies were traditionally used by hunters to encourage wild ducks towards traps or hunters using their distinctive call. They are now more commonly kept as pets due to their tame nature and petite stature.

Misty was adopted alongside her two sisters, Crystal and Maple and joined the existing flock in their large, hand-built enclosure. They were delighted to find that their new home had **all** the desired amenities; a swimming pool, custom duck house, tasty lawn for nibbles and plenty of space to exercise their wings. Misty found herself partial to a dandelion & pea snack floating in the pool.

Misty tried her wing at parenthood, building herself a cosy nest for her eggs. She shared incubating responsibilities with Crystal and they proudly hatched 11 fluffy healthy little ducklings!! Misty was a great Mother, nurturing her ducklings until they flew the nest to their new homes and life settled back to normal.

One day, Misty's owner noticed that she looked a little lopsided and didn't seem to be able to see properly out of her right eye - poor Misty kept falling off the ramp leading to the duck house, misjudging the edge. Misty's owner booked



an appointment and brought her in to see us along with Crystal (for moral support).

After being examined by our exotics vet, Colin, it was found that Misty had suffered a severe poke in the eye (probably from one of the other naughty ducks) causing an ulcer.

She was prescribed antibiotic eye drops, some pain relief and allowed home for some TLC in the hope that she would recover her sight. Over the next week we were pleased to hear that Misty's eye was improving. The ulcer appeared to be shrinking and Misty began to regain her balance on the ramp.

Sadly, this progress was short lived as, suddenly, Misty's eye took a turn for the worse. On examination our vets found that poor Misty's ulcer had deteriorated beyond repair. After considering options for treatment it was decided that it would be best to remove her eye completely and she was booked in for the procedure.

Misty was hospitalised and underwent surgery. After a night indoors with her owner at home she returned to swimming, just one day later! Dosed with pain relief and antibiotics to stave off any infection, Misty went from strength to strength and has completely healed.

We were delighted to meet Misty especially as we don't get many Call Ducks in through the practice. We were glad to be able to help her and pleased that she's had such a wonderful result. Misty's story shows that accidents can happen, and it is important for us to remain vigilant to any injuries that may be sustained by our pets and to seek appropriate treatment.

The Langford Club

The Langford Club (TLC) provides pet owners with the support they need to help their pets stay fit and healthy. It covers the regular treatments your pet needs throughout life. Members of TLC receive their annual health check and booster, monthly flea and tick treatment and three monthly worm treatments at a significant discount.

Speak to our Reception team, or head to our website to find out more: langfordvets.co.uk



Small Animal Practice Opening Hours

Mon 8.30am - 6pm
Tues 8.30am - 7pm
Weds 8am - 6pm
Thurs 8.30am - 7pm
Fri 8.30am - 6pm
Sat 9am - 12pm

01934 852 422

Emergencies accepted 24 hours a day



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