

# The Heat is On!

# Your SURGERY NEWS

The one thing predictable about the English weather, particularly in the summer, is that it is unpredictable! Most of us would like a long hot summer, however where our dogs, cats and other pets are concerned, it does not have to be a real scorcher for them to be affected by **heatstroke** (hyperthermia) - a rise in body temperature. Just a warm cloudy humid day can cause the heat to rise in your home, conservatory and garden where your pets could be relaxing or exercising. These places can become even hotter when the sun is shining, and as an animal's cooling system is not as efficient as us humans, your pet can very quickly overheat and dehydrate. If their temperature reaches too high a level, serious damage can occur to their organs and cell system. Sadly in severe cases this can be fatal.

**Some pets are more at risk than others** and extra care should be taken with those who are overweight, elderly, have a heart condition, breathing problems or long and thick coats.

### Aim to Prevent

**Never** leave your pet in the car, not even with the windows open. They will cook in minutes! Exercise pets in the **cooler morning or evening air**. Don't **over exert** them.

Always ensure they have **access to shady cooler areas** in and outdoors. Regulate their time spent **lying in the sun and heat** in the garden or indoors.

Place rabbit and guinea pigs' housing, outside run and drinking water **in the shade**, also ensure the hutch has good ventilation.

### Recognise the Signs

Increase in panting Excessive/thick saliva  
Anxiousness/pacing/distress Dark gums  
Lethargy Unwilling or unable to rise  
Vomiting Dizziness/disorientation  
Collapse/loss of consciousness

Pets can recover from heatstroke but the key is **early recognition and prompt action, but better still prevent it!** **If you suspect that your pet is suffering from the effects of heatstroke move them to a cool area and contact your veterinary surgery immediately.**

Provide plenty of **fresh, cool, clean drinking water.**



## Good News & Bad News for Bunnies

**How good is your rabbit's food?** Feeding your pet a 'dried mix' helps to provide a balanced diet, but it also allows your bunny to 'pick and choose'. This usually results in them eating only the 'tasty bits', leaving the other 'essential bits' behind! However, it's these essentials that help a rabbit's digestive system stay in good working order, and their continuously growing teeth stay in shape.

**So good food** for your rabbits is:

**An all in one pellet mix** provides no option to 'pick & choose' as they eat everything!

**Plenty of hay** as they require a high source of fibre and its great for teeth too.

A selection of **fresh fruit and vegetables.** Like to know more? Then give us a call.

**Bad for Bunny** Overgrown teeth can cause

- ❖ eating problems
- ❖ facial abscesses
- ❖ cuts

This may also prevent your rabbit from grooming themselves and keeping clean, which can lead to the very serious condition called '**flystrike**' especially in the summer months. If its hindquarters become moist and dirty, nasty buzzing flies can be attracted to this area where they lay eggs. As the eggs hatch into maggots, they feed on the rabbit's skin and underlying tissue. This is an extremely horrible and life-threatening condition for your rabbit. It is a real emergency, which requires immediate veterinary treatment, as sadly, flystrike can often be fatal.



### So take steps to protect your pet rabbit

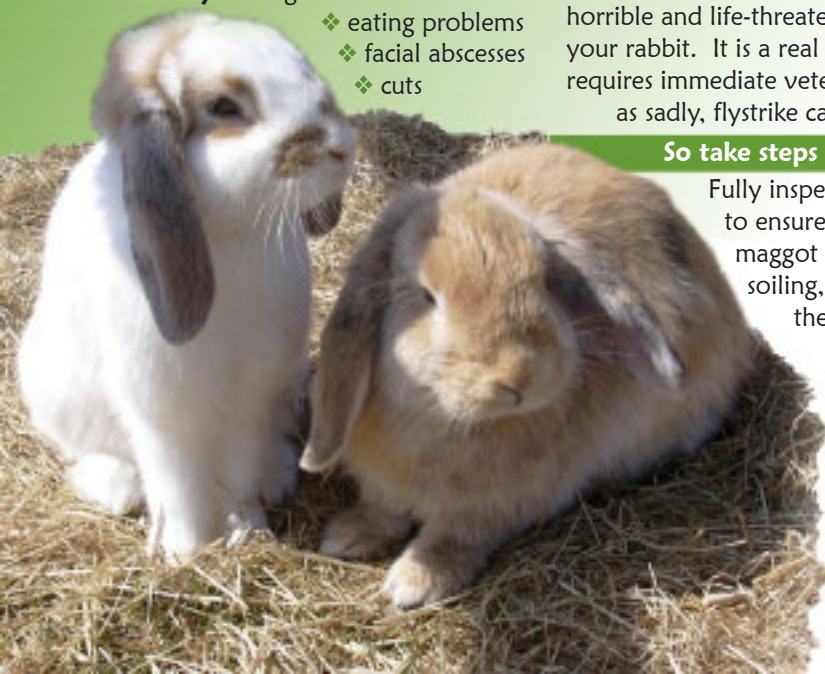
Fully inspect your rabbit's bottom daily to ensure they are clean, dry, egg and maggot free. If this area has regular soiling, pop them in for a check-up as their teeth may require trimming.

Remove dirty bedding and waste material daily

Clean hutches frequently

Ask your vet about protective sprays that are available.

**If you think your rabbit has FLYSTRIKE contact your vet without delay.**



## Your SURGERY HOURS AT A GLANCE

### Your hours

or anything else you prefer to include. These spaces are not fixed. To accommodate your items and pictures, we move around or remove our content.

for more information

Phone us on  
**0844 5987360**

# Worming Its Way In!

There is a particular type of worm that we have reported on before, but this rather nasty, new parasite is unfortunately on the increase. Pet owners need to be fully aware of the risk that this worm poses, so that action can be taken to protect your pets from **Lungworm**.

This parasite lives in the lungs and hearts of dogs and foxes, that have become infected through eating snails or slugs. Your pet may not be partial to this particular snack, but as all dogs enjoy sniffing around the garden, on walks and may even be grass eaters, there is a good chance they could come into contact with the lungworm larvae and swallow it. It will then travel through your dog's blood reaching the lungs, where it will develop and breed.

## Preventative Care

Treatments are available to help tackle this problem, so it really is worth discussing these with your vet, especially if your pet enjoys munching on slugs and snails. If left untreated, lungworms can cause serious illness and in some cases can be fatal.

**Please bring your pet in as soon as possible for a check-up if you notice any signs of coughing - rapid/difficulty breathing - lethargy - reluctance to exercise - loss of appetite - behavioural changes.**

**In more severe cases some dogs may experience heart failure - bleeding problems - seizures.**

**Slug pellets** may well destroy slugs and snails in your garden, but **this pesticide is also extremely poisonous to dogs and other pets** if eaten.

## You can help by

Cleaning up and correctly disposing of your dog's poo from the garden and on walks.

Trying to minimize your pet's contact with snails and slugs.



## Carrie Cat...reporter extraordinaire!

*Experienced paparazzi always keep eyes and ears open! Many a good story is gathered from gossip, especially from humans! Strolling down the lane the other day my ears were alerted, "Cats Mrs Bevan, that cat of mine, sprayed up my settee again! The smell, the mess, and know what else?" I was keen to note this down, so out come my pad. "Cheeky cats, do that spraying thing just because they like doing it, no good reason behind it. Nasty habit that's what I think. Fed only the best my cat, and he does that! I'll chase him with the broom next time!" I caught my breath, slanderous gossip towards the feline race, so I need to set the record straight. Cats are territorial creatures. We mark out areas to ward off any cat intruders who may be thinking of claiming or entering our ground. 'Spraying' or as we prefer 'scent marking', is a means of communication to other cats. We all can, and do sometimes scent mark but there's a snag, at times we do this indoors as we cats are quite sensitive to change, which causes us to be frightened, confused and anxious. -"Oh my gosh a new cat next door is invading my 'space' and other cats who ignore marked boundaries searching for a mate, my daily routine's changed, we've moved house, a new baby and another dog?!" For you, all this is quite normal but for us, it shakes and shatters our confidence, and we need help to re-build it.*



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## Our layout is totally flexible

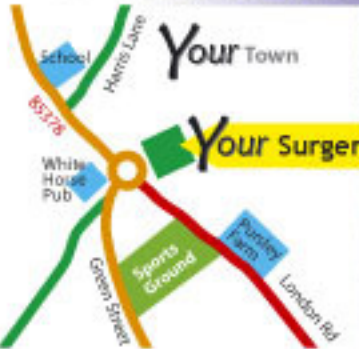
We can move around our content to accommodate your News, Articles or Photos. Use as much or as little space as you want, for each issue. We will do any artwork and writing for you.

**Use Your Newsletter to communicate with clients and promote Your Practice, to encourage pet owners to make more use of Your services.**

Tell them about Special Clinics, New Equipment, Facilities, Refurbishment, Staff Profiles, Events, Interesting or informative case histories, etc.

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# Your SURGERY



**Spraying indoors a nasty habit? No.** There is a real reason for it. Understanding why is the first step towards helping us solve our problem. Try to note down when, where and how often we are 'spraying' and have a chat with your vet; they are there to help you and us in our hour of need. *This was Carrie reporting and signing off, on behalf of the feline community.*

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