



Practice Newsletter

February 2018

Can your pet get fleas in winter?

In a natural setting a dog or cat would be less likely to contract a flea infestation in winter as the cold weather causes the fleas to lay dormant, but in the UK most pets are kept indoors in an artificial environment where the use of central heating allows the fleas to breed all year round.

PDSA statistics show that there is a 20% drop in the sale of flea treatments during the winter months. This is because many owners simply do not realise that fleas are just as active in the winter as the summer months.

Artificial environments and the use of central heating

Contrary to popular belief, fleas do survive during the winter months, especially indoors; our warm houses provide the perfect breeding ground for fleas as they thrive in a warm and humid environment. People turn up the central heating to keep their homes warm, but this means that fleas are attracted to the home. Pet owners should take effective steps to rid their pets, and their homes, of these parasites and minimise risk of infestation by carrying out continuous year-round treatment, even in the winter months.

Treating pets in winter

To combat fleas during the winter, it is important to address both the pet and the environment, since fleas live a large part of their life cycle off of the pet and in the environment (house, bed, garden etc). Fleas need warm temperatures to survive. The inside of your home provides a warm environment to allow fleas to thrive year round regardless of seasons.

Treating your pet is only part of the solution as you will have to treat your home and any other pets within your household too. Everything the dog or cat comes into contact with should be treated with a product recommended by your vet; otherwise it is inevitable that the fleas will come back.

Fleas can cause very serious health problems. They are one of the most common causes of distressing skin problems in dogs and cats and in severe cases smaller animals, particularly kittens, can die from anaemia due to blood loss from the feeding fleas.

Direct Pet treatment



The most effective way to control flea infestations is to treat the pet directly all year round. You should consult with your local veterinary surgeon for detailed advice on the use and suitability of available products for your pet's circumstances.

Spot-on Flea Treatments - The liquid is applied to the scruff of the neck, directly on the skin with the fur parted. Most spot-on products contain adulticides designed to eliminate adult fleas from the pet within 24 hours of application.

Oral Flea Treatments - there are an increasing number of oral flea treatments for dogs and cats that kill the adult fleas on your pet.

If you treat the pets regularly, you are less likely to need to spray the house because all fleas will jump on your cat or dog as part of their life cycle.

Home Management

Hoovering the carpets and furniture will pick up eggs, this is especially important if your pets are allowed to sleep or climb on the sofa, bed etc. Cleaning the area where the pet's favourite sleeping place is will remove significant numbers of eggs and larvae, if you use a basket any bedding should be washed in the washing machine on a hot wash (eggs, larvae and adults will not survive this).

When the infestation is light, it is possible do it yourself for the pest control to be effective. Many products can be used to spray your house against fleas. Products have been designed to allow a low concentration of insecticide to be used by homeowners in their own homes. In some cases these products also contain a growth regulator. As with all products of this type, you must adhere to the direction as to its use, especially in relation to application rates

For more advice on how to treat your pet please telephone us or call into either clinic where a member of the team will be happy to help.



National Love Your Pet Day

February is known as the month of love, and while the 14th may be a traditional time to tell those on two feet how much they mean to us, pet owners can celebrate in the truest sense during a day set aside for the friendships we form with the animal members of our fur family.

February 20th has been marked as a date to show appreciation for our pals with fur, fins or feathers. All pet owners know however that *every* day is National Love Your Pet Day. In fact, in a recent survey conducted by VetIQ more than 80 percent of those asked revealed that their canine or feline companion receives more smooches than their significant other.



A Few Furry Facts

Cat Trivia

Animal Collective

A group of adult cats is known as "a Clowder" or "a Glaring". A group of kittens is known as "a Kindle" or "an Intrigue". Or, of course "a litter."

Cats have fingerprints, sort of

The pattern on a cat's nose is unique, just like a human fingerprint. That's why cat burglars never get away with it...

Totes emosh

Like people, cats have a region of the brain that is responsible for emotions. Cat's brains are more like humans' than they are like dogs'.



Straight talking

A cat's jaw cannot move laterally, only vertically. This is why they cannot eat large chunks of food.

Whisker business

A cat usually has 12 whiskers on each side of his or her face.

Good vibrations

Cats highly are sensitive to vibrations and can feel earth tremors up to 15 minutes before humans can.

Skeleton key

Adult cats have 230 bones, 24 more than humans. The fact cats have no collarbone helps them fit through small gaps such as cat flaps.

Dog Trivia

Drinking Buddies

Just like cats, our canine friends bend the tip of their tongue and raise liquid in a column up to their mouths.

Sense of Timing

Dogs pick up on our routines and habits, they also sense how much time has passed. One study showed how dogs responded differently to their owners being gone for different lengths of time.

Hot stuff

Dogs only have sweat glands in their paws. They are found between their paw pads. That's why it helps to wet the bottom of their feet on a hot day, and it's also why dogs rely on panting as a means of cooling down.

Pitch perfect

Dogs can hear 4 times as far as humans. Puppies may be born deaf, but they quickly surpass our hearing abilities.

Out of salts

Dogs can pick up on subtle changes in your scent, which can help them figure out how you are feeling — such as by smelling your perspiration when you become nervous or fearful. It's also likely how dogs can detect certain diseases or know that a household member is pregnant.

2 The Green, [Thurlby](#), PE10 0EB, t: 01778 420462, [Mon to Fri](#) 8am - 7pm, [Sat](#) 8.30am - 12pm
4 Stamford Road, [Market Deeping](#), PE6 8AB, t: 01778 380111, [Mon to Fri](#) 8am – 7pm

Services include, Routine veterinary medicine and surgery, exotic referrals, pet care plans, home visits, acupuncture, nurse clinics, exotic boarding, pet passports and export, out of hours service, Kitty mates (home visits for feeding and caring for pets), separate wards for cats, dogs and exotics, off road parking.