



Worming your Dog and Cat

The worming of dogs and cats throughout their lives is extremely important. This is not only to protect their health, but more importantly it is to protect our health. Many of the species of worm that infect our pets can infect humans too. Indeed some of these species can cause more severe disease in people than in our canine and feline friends.

Roundworms

In the UK, about 2-3% of people are believed to be infected with roundworm at some stage in their lives. However, most of these will remain unaware that they've been exposed to the parasite, as infection is often symptom less, or causes nothing worse than a stomach ache.

The chance of serious human harm from roundworm infection is remote but there are 12 cases a year in the UK of eye damage and blindness as a result of roundworm infection. This is caused when the roundworm larvae migrate into the back of the eye. Although the risk is small, the consequences are severe. The story of Linda Hughes, a veterinary practice manager, whose daughter suffered an infection can be read here: http://www.wormfree.co.uk/dog_cat_worms/en/roundworm/linda_hughes.shtml

Tapeworms

The most serious risk to human health comes from the tapeworms *Echinococcus granulosus* and *Echinococcus multilocularis*. Thankfully at present *E. granulosus* is only found in Central Wales and

the Hebrides, whilst *E. multilocularis* is not thought to be a risk in the UK, despite being common in

Europe. Infection can cause cysts which can occur in a variety of places in the body and require surgical removal. They often occur in the liver and result in liver failure.

A more common tapeworm *Dipylidium caninum* is spread by fleas. Although a dog tapeworm, it is also the commonest tapeworm found in children. It is often asymptomatic but can cause abdominal pain, diarrhoea, anal irritation and itchiness.

It is important to remember that dogs and cats with both roundworm and tapeworm infestations are often asymptomatic and therefore show no outward signs. However they still pose an infection risk. This is the reason regular worming is so important. If you see worms in a dog's or cat's faeces then this is a sign of a

severe worm burden.

Also scooting along the floor is not a sign of worm infestation in your dog, but more likely indicates full anal glands that may need emptying at the vets.

Do you have trouble remembering when your pets' worm pill is due or when you should be giving the next flea and tick treatment. If so we can help you. You can sign up for our free text messaging service. Let us have your name, address and mobile number and how often you would like a reminder and we will send you a text message letting you know when the treatment is due. If you would like further details or would like to sign up to the text messaging service, then contact reception or ring 023 8028 2358/023 8066 0400.



Staff News

Well done Becks!

I am sure many of you know Becky, one of the busy receptionists based at Totton. You may not have known that she spent the last two years "back to school", while still busy working full time and as a result of much reading and hard work, she has now qualified as an Animal Nursing Assistant to complement her receptionist skills. Becky will continue to work in reception, but if you don't see her she may be "out the back" now she is able to officially assist the vets and nurses when they need extra hands on deck! Congratulations Becky, we are very proud of you.

Pet Food Delivery Service

- Pet Food delivered to your door
- FREE local delivery for orders over £25
- Orders under £25 accepted subject to a small delivery charge
- All food orders received in Jan/Feb will be entered into a FREE PRIZE DRAW sponsored by James Wellbeloved for either a 15kg bag of dog food or a 10kg bag of cat food
- All orders taken at the Lyndhurst surgery

Telephone Lyndhurst surgery on 023 8028 2358 or email enquiries@midforestvets.co.uk



Microchipping

Microchipping is an excellent in-expensive method of identifying your pet. For a one off payment your pet will be implanted with the microchip and will receive life-long membership with Petlog (The National Microchipping Database). The microchip is roughly the same size as a grain of rice and is encoded with an unique number. It is implanted into the loose skin in the scruff of the neck and can be done at any age. If the unthinkable happens and your pet goes missing, all vets, animal rescues and dog wardens have scanners that can read the microchip number. Petlog can be contacted and the owner's details are instantly available enabling you to be re-united with your pet as soon as possible.

Household hazards

Keeping our dogs healthy and happy is the primary goal of any pet owner. While most people know that chocolate can be poisonous to dogs, there are other potential toxins lurking within our kitchen cupboards that can cause illness, or worse, in our canine friends.

While the chemical theobromide is responsible for the toxic properties of chocolate, caffeine also contributes to its ill-effects. Caffeine is not well tolerated in dogs and can cause hyperexcitability and stress on the heart. Therefore, coffee, either liquid, instant or beans, tea bags and baked goods containing coffee should be kept away from pets. Fruits and vegetables are not completely harmless either. Grapes, including dried products like raisins and sultanas have been recently found to be quite toxic to dogs with symptoms ranging from vomiting to acute kidney failure and even death. Certain artificial sweeteners have also recently been found to cause severe adverse reactions in dogs. Other products to avoid giving your dog include:- macademia nuts, fatty foods, avocado, onions (especially onion powder), and foods containing alcoholic beverages. Kitchen bins contain all sorts of potential dangers from cooked bones to tin cans, so please make sure your bin is not accessible to your dog.



In the Garden

Please be aware that certain plants are poisonous to dogs. These include Ragwort, Rhododendron, Ivy, Deadly Nightshade, Foxgloves and Oleander. Always keep garden chemicals locked away from dogs even if the manufacturer claims that the contents are unpalatable and contain a "Proven Pet Repellent" e.g. slug pellets.

Should your dog ingest any food or products you are unsure of, please contact your veterinary surgery immediately. Always keep the package if possible so the vet can determine exactly what your dog has eaten