

Worming Your Dogs and Cats

The worming of your pets 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 furry 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.

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. There are often no symptoms although it can cause abdominal pain, diarrhoea, anal irritation and itchiness.

It is important to remember that pets with both roundworm and tapeworm infestations often 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 your pet's faeces then this is a sign of a severe worm burden, whereas scooting along the floor is not a sign of worm infestation, but more likely indicates full anal glands that may need emptying by the vet.



We say a sad farewell to **Nicky Adlem** who has been our receptionist at the Lyndhurst surgery for the last 4 years. Her friendly face and helpful manner will be missed, but we wish her lots of luck in her new career in horticulture.

We would like to welcome two new members of staff to our Lyndhurst surgery. **Caroline Pollard** having been one of our clients for many years, now crosses the counter to join our team as one of our receptionists and **Sarah Nicholas** will be joining us as Lyndhurst's veterinary nurse.

Turn over page for Cat's Whisker Quiz



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Cat's Whiskers Quiz

- 1. What is the scientific word for a cat's whiskers?**
 - A. Cilia
 - B. Palpebrae
 - C. Vibrissae
 - D. Phalangae
- 2. How many whiskers does the average cat have coming from the 'whisker pad' (the puffy area between the top corners of your cat's mouth and the outer edges of his nose)?**
 - A. 14
 - B. 24
 - C. 18
 - D. 20
- 3. Whiskers are thicker than ordinary cat hairs. How many times thicker?**
 - A. 2-3 times
 - B. 5-6 times
 - C. 4-5 times
 - D. 1-2 times
- 4. Whiskers are rooted very deep in the cat's face, in an area rich in nerves and blood vessels. Compared to cat hairs, how many times deeper in a cat's tissue are whiskers set?**
 - A. 3 times
 - B. 2 times
 - C. 4 times
 - D. 5 times
- 5. It is alright to cut your cat's whiskers.**
 - A. True
 - B. False
- 6. Cat's whiskers are very sensitive helping the cat feel his way around because they can detect slight changes in ...?**
 - A. Air currents
 - B. Air temperature
 - C. Air speed
 - D. Air humidity
- 7. Cat whiskers fall out and are replaced.**
 - A. True
 - B. False
- 8. How long does it take to re-grow whiskers?**
 - A. 1/2 months
 - B. 2/3 months
 - C. 3/4 months
- 9. The longest whisker recorded belonged to a Maine Coon cat. How long was it?**
 - A. 10cm
 - B. 16cm
 - C. 19cm
 - D. 21cm

**Quiz Answers 1.C 2. B 3.A 4.A
5.B 6.A 7.A 8.B 9.C**

Fly Strike

Flystrike is a common, extremely distressing and often fatal disease, which affects rabbits most commonly during the warm summer months. Rabbits at the highest risk are those that suffer from obesity, dental disease, arthritis, diarrhoea and skin wounds. Eggs are commonly laid in the fur of a rabbit's hindquarters when rabbits develop a sore area, usually caused by faecal and/or urine soiling. These eggs hatch into maggots in as little as 12 hours, eating into flesh and causing it to die off and decay. The maggots eat further and further into the rabbit often emerging in the abdomen and then pupate in just a few days to produce new adults. The entire cycle can be completed in 7-15 days. Flies are also attracted to rabbits when environmental conditions are poor e.g. dirty hutches, therefore, it is very important to keep their living area clean and disinfected and to regularly remove waste and soiled bedding. Flystrike is easily prevented with good housing, husbandry and hygiene. Ensure that you feed a diet which is high in fibre to avoid diarrhoea and check your rabbit daily for any soiled areas and ensure that it is clean and dry. Never neglect rabbits. They must be handled daily and allowed to exercise to prevent them from becoming obese and not being able to keep themselves clean. Further insurance against fly strike may be provided by use of suitable insecticides and insect repellents. Ask at reception for more details.



Repet prescriptions are available at 24 hours notice. Please speak to reception when you are running low on your pet's medication.

We require all animals that are on repeat medication to come in for a FREE six month health check. This comprehensive health check is to assess whether your pet is still in need of the same medication and the same dosage level or whether changes need to be made. Appointments can be made during normal surgery hours.