



## Hot Dogs

We would like to remind everyone of the danger of leaving dogs in parked cars. Cars heat up rapidly when parked on hot days with temperatures rising to 120F/49C and leaving dogs in the car, even for

short periods, can cause them to overheat, leading to distress, possible heat stroke, dehydration and unfortunately, even death.

Often even leaving car windows open is not enough to cool a car sufficiently and it can take just 20 minutes for dogs to suffer from heatstroke. **The safest option is to not leave your dog unattended in a car at all.**

The Kennel Club has produced a set of guidelines outlining the safe way to travel with your dog in these warmer months and there is an information guide on "Road Travel with your Dog". For more information look at the kennel club website, [www.thekennelclub.org.uk](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk).

## Stick Injuries in Dogs

Every year we treat a considerable number of dogs who have been injured while running to fetch sticks. Whilst many of these injuries are minor, some are extremely serious and can even cause death.

Small or large pieces of stick can break off, remain inside the wound and cause serious infection which can't be cured unless all the pieces of wood are found and removed. Commonly pieces of stick break off and remain inside the neck. Injuries can also occur in the mouth, chest and even the abdomen

Angus is a playful border collie who loved to chase sticks thrown by the owner, but one day play time went terribly wrong. As Angus caught the stick, one end dug into the ground. The stick went through the soft tissue of his mouth and throat, and into his windpipe. His injuries were horrific, requiring hours of surgery to remove the splintered pieces of wood. He also suffered life threatening blood loss. But Angus was lucky and lived to tell the tale, although he still has some problems eating, and cannot bark. Angus still loves to chase things, but now his owner throws Frisbees and large balls (not tennis ball size as these can get stuck in the throat and obstruct the airway!). **These are much safer!!**



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Louise Turner RVN, one of our Totton nurses, who has just graduated from Sparsholt College with a degree in Veterinary Nursing. We look forward to benefiting from her newly acquired knowledge.

Two members of staff are taking part in sponsored climbs in the near future. **Jessica Read**, one of our receptionists, is planning to trek over 100km to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro raising money for the Born Free Foundation, who do a wonderful job conserving Africa's wildlife. For more details of the climb and donating look on [www.justgiving.com/Jessica-Read](http://www.justgiving.com/Jessica-Read). **Sue Pell**, our veterinary nurse at Lyndhurst, is doing a sponsored 50 mile trek across the Carpathian Mountains in Romania. All money raised will be donated to a World Society for the Protection of Animals sanctuary, that rescues bears who are forced to "dance" for tourists. If you would like to sponsor Sue, you can email her on [pellsue@hotmail.com](mailto:pellsue@hotmail.com).

## Flystrike on Rabbits

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. Fly 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 rabbits 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 then 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 about these. If you find eggs or maggots on your rabbit, call the vet immediately.



## Our own 24hour Emergency Service

We are very proud to be able to offer a personalised 24 hour emergency service for our clients. You may wonder exactly what this means and why it is such a good thing for you and your pets. If your pet becomes ill and needs to be seen outside normal surgery hours many veterinary practices will insist that you travel, often many miles, to be seen by an emergency vet service, who have never seen your pet and will know nothing of its history or previous conditions.

However, at Midforest we will always see your pet either at our Totton or Lyndhurst surgery, so you don't have to travel far to get the urgent care your pet needs, even in the middle of the night. You would always see one of our vets, quite possibly your own regular vet, who will be familiar to you and your pet. The surgeries are linked by a computer system so all your pet's notes can be accessed at either site. This means that the vet can see exactly what treatment your pet has had, whether or not it is on any medication and if there is any other relevant information specific to your pet's health. Any treatment given at this time will be noted on the records so if any follow up treatment is necessary then your regular vet will see this at your next visit and make the necessary changes. If the duty vet feels you should bring your pet in sooner or be referred then the receptionists will be alerted to this the next morning and arrangements made as required.

We feel that our emergency service offers the best possible service by providing continuity of care for you and your pet outside the normal surgery hours at what might be a very stressful time.

For emergencies ring 023 8028 2358 and you will be given another telephone number to call Molly, our night receptionist. Molly is very experienced and will liaise with the duty vet for immediate help and advice. Please be aware, however, that using the emergency service will cost more, as out of hours fees will apply to your bill if your pet is seen at night.



***Our website is full of information.***

- ◆ Surgery opening times
- ◆ Vets, nurses and other staff
- ◆ Nurses' clinics
- ◆ Animal fact sheets
- ◆ News page
- ◆ Insurance information
- ◆ Childrens' fun pages
- ◆ Articles written by our vets
- ◆ Our own 24 hour emergency service
- ◆ Dog training, boarding kennels, catteries
- ◆ Visual tours of each surgery
- ◆ Rescue centres
- ◆ Other helpful links

***Log on and have a look for yourself.***

### **Choosing a cattery**

- ◆ If the cattery is on the same site as a kennels, do the dogs disturb the cats?
- ◆ Are the surroundings neat and tidy?
- ◆ Is there a separate kitchen for food preparation for cats?
- ◆ Were you made welcome?
- ◆ Have you seen the cattery's licence?
- ◆ Do the cats have individual sleeping accommodation?
- ◆ Do the cats have individual runs?
- ◆ Is there a shelf for the cats to sit/lie on?
- ◆ Is there a scratching post in the run?
- ◆ Is there a gap or full height solid barrier between cat chalets?
- ◆ Is there an interesting view for the cats?
- ◆ Is there a safety passage between the cat chalets?
- ◆ Do the cat units have the cat's name on?
- ◆ Are the chalets clean?
- ◆ Is there any smell?
- ◆ Do the litter trays and bowls look clean?
- ◆ Is there a form of heating for each cat?
- ◆ Do the cats in residence look contented?
- ◆ Have you been asked about your cat's vaccination?
- ◆ Have you been asked about your cat's health?
- ◆ Does the proprietor seem well informed and caring?

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Further information can be found on their website [www.fabcats.org](http://www.fabcats.org)**