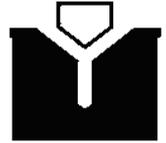




coombefield
veterinary hospital
Newsletter July 2012



www.coombefieldvets.co.uk



All about ticks



Wherever you live in the UK, your pet can pick up ticks – from your garden, urban parks or rural areas. Ticks are uncomfortable and annoying for your pet which leads to your cat or dog trying to rub or scratch the tick off. But these are minor irritations compared to the other problems ticks can cause: Ticks often cause skin reactions because of the way they attach to your pet. If a live tick is removed there's a risk of leaving their mouthparts in place – the embedded mouthparts act as a foreign body and can cause a granuloma (benign lump) or an abscess.

It's important to check your pet regularly for ticks, particularly if they are travelling abroad, or have recently come back into the UK. Pay special attention to the areas around their head, ears and legs. Your pet could have had a tick attached without you noticing, especially if it's long-haired.

Tick and tick borne disease are serious issues. Ticks were considered a regional problem but are more widespread than previously thought. The Pet Travel Scheme no longer requires dogs to be treated for ticks before entering the UK. This could lead to an increase in exotic ticks and tick-borne disease entering the UK. In recent surveys carried out by independent companies it was found that 64% of vets feel ticks are an increasing problem in their area and 43% of dog owners have seen a tick on their dog. Currently the UK is a low to medium risk of certain tick-borne diseases which are high risk in continental Europe.

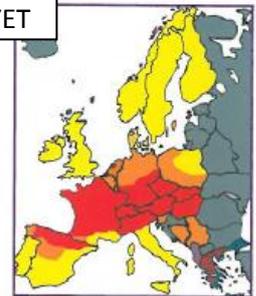
Regular treatment is essential to protect your pet from ticks and the problems they can cause – including the diseases they can transmit. We now stock Certifect®. Certifect starts killing ticks in as little as 2 hours and eliminates >90% of them in 24 hours, before the tick takes its full blood meal, so the risk of transmission of disease from the tick to your pet is reduced. Certifect is effective against all three of the commonest European tick species and remains effective even if your pet gets wet.

Once dead, many ticks will drop off naturally but if they don't simply remove them with a gentle pull – preferably with tick removers. If you require assistance, consult your Veterinary nurse or Veterinary surgeon.

Babesiosis

NOT IN UK YET

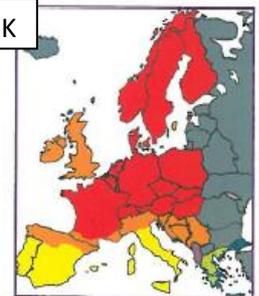
- Transmitted by *Dermacentor reticulatus*, *Rhipicephalus sanguineus*.
- Clinical signs: anorexia, haemolytic anaemia, icterus, pyrexia and splenic and hepatic enlargement.



Lyme disease (Borreliosis)

IN THE UK

- Transmitted by *Ixodes ricinus*.
- Clinical signs: pyrexia, lameness, arthritis, lymphadenopathy, lethargy and anorexia.

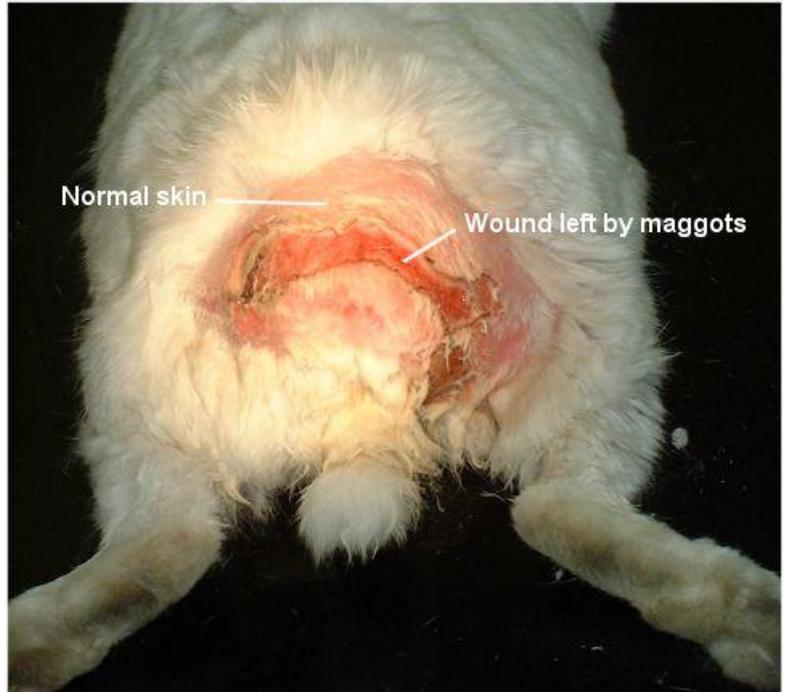


Scan with your Smart Phone for our latest promotions:



Fly Strike in Rabbits

Fly strike is a problem in rabbits when flies lay eggs on faecal matter on the rabbit's skin. These eggs then develop into maggots which bury underneath the skin and eat away at the rabbits flesh. Fly strike can develop in a matter of hours so it is vital that your rabbit is checked at least twice a day in the hotter weather and any faecal matter is removed immediately. Your rabbit's hutch/run should be spot checked/cleaned daily and thoroughly disinfected at least once a week. Rabbits that are most at risk of Fly strike are those that are aging, overweight or disabled. It can be prevented by ensuring your rabbit is kept clean and by applying a product called Rear Guard. The only way to treat Flystrike is to take your rabbit into a Veterinary Practice as they can go into shock due to the maggots releasing toxins. The maggots need to be removed and the wounds treated. If you would like to speak to a Veterinary Nurse about Fly Strike or have any questions about general health care of your rabbit please phone to book an appointment on Axminster 01297 630500.



Pet Insurance

In recent years huge advances have been made in Veterinary medicine. Vets can now do things to improve the health and welfare of domestic pets that would have been unimaginable or impractical only a few years ago. Not surprisingly, these advanced surgical and medical treatments are often expensive and a vet's bill for intricate surgery or a prolonged course of treatment could be thousands of pounds. Many pet owners worry that they will not be able to afford to pay for treatment if their dog becomes sick or has a major accident. Many pet owners choose to take out insurance to cover the cost of veterinary treatment. There are policies for cats and dogs, as well as horses and other common pets like rabbits.

It is important to read insurance documents with care to make sure that you select a policy that will suit you and your pet. Some policies have a time or cost limit for the treatment of each particular condition. With these there is a danger that your pet will run out of insurance cover if it requires long-term treatment for a chronic problem. Make sure that your pet will be covered for the whole of its life because animals are more likely to need veterinary treatment as they get older.



There are many pet health insurance companies and a staggering array of policies from which to choose. It can be daunting trying to make a decision. Unfortunately the ultimate test of an insurance policy is how well it performs when you need to claim! A good company should pay a genuine claim promptly and with minimum fuss. Personal recommendation is always a good start when buying a service. Ask your friends and other pet owners if they recommend their current pet insurance provider.

Most vets are in favour of health insurance but changes in the financial services laws mean we are unable to recommend specific insurance companies.