

qualified nurses.

## AUTUMN FLEA CONTROL

At this time of year we tend to see another surge in flea problems. As the central heating goes on any flea eggs that have been laid in the house hatch out rapidly in the nice warm carpet. We are finding that fewer people have been using environmental control as they have been relying on the spot-ons to kill all stages of the flea life.

Happily there are plenty of new products on the market: including Frontline Combo which helps to prevent the flea eggs from developing, and is available for cats and dogs.

ProMeris, Prac-tic and Advantix are new spot on products for dogs, that act against fleas and ticks.

Advantage and Stronghold have been around for some time now and help prevent the flea larvae from developing. We would not recommend smothering ticks in Vaseline or Liquid Paraffin as it has now been discovered that any bugs or bacteria they may be carrying is injected into the host as they die. Use a proper tick remover that can be purchased in reception.

Please feel free to ask the Veterinary Surgeon when you next visit for advice on what may be the best product for your pet or make an appointment for a free flea check with one of our

## **AUTUMN ACTION**

As the nights draw in, and the weather cools, it becomes harder for many owners to maintain their dogs regular exercise levels, at just the time when they may be more prone to joint stiffness due to the colder weather. Regular exercise is a must to any dogs quality of life so it is important to get them out for a walk. Beware of the risks of walking in the dark, wear pale and reflective clothing and use reflective collars and/or leads to be seen and be safe.

Other hazards at this time of year include dogs eating fallen apples, conkers etc. and developing digestive problems. Also remember anti-freeze is highly palatable ( and **poisonous**) to pets so don't leave it lying around.

**Finally** be well prepared for the build up to firework night - keep pets in and safe if they suffer with anxiety due to fireworks, make sure they have somewhere they feel safe with destroyable items like newspapers, boxes as well as blanket to hide under, and that they have free access to it at all times  
Medication may be needed, so

### *Veterinary Surgeons:*

*RM.B. Wilson MA, VetMB MRCVS  
Miss J.Redman BVetMed MRCVS*

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*Miss R. Haslam BVSc MRCVS*

please contact us to discuss options available to you and your pet.

### **New Products**

Ceva have just launched SKOOSH which is a pesticide free, silicone based Flea control treatment for the home. The thin carrier silicone (like you find in body lotions) carries the thicker silicone down into the carpet fibres.

The thicker silicone coats all four lifestages of the flea and hardens, this renders the larval and flea stages helpless, while the eggs and pupae stages are unable to hatch. Research shows that it takes an average 43 seconds to kill an adult flea!

This product is safe to use around fish and birds and there is no need to air the room. Carpets are damp for 30 minutes or so and ideally you should not walk over it as dirt from your shoes will stick, after 30 minutes the silicone will have evaporated so you can walk on it. Skoosh is safe to use on furnishings i.e. pet bedding, car seats but its recommended that you patch test first!

Surfaces remain treated for at least 6 weeks, however by treating your pets with an on-animal product

your flea free period will be maintained.

### **Emergency Service**

We would like to remind clients that we provide an Emergency out of hours service in the evening and at weekends, as well as bank holidays. So you always have peace of mind that your pet can be seen by a vet. There is an additional charge for this service but clients who have regular vaccinations and boosters with us will get a £20.00 discount.

### **MICROCHIPPING**

We are still offering a 10% discount on microchipping with any vaccination, neutering or routine operation.

### **AUTUMN WILDLIFE**

We frequently have all sorts of wildlife brought into our surgeries, we will always hospitalise sick wildlife but encourage the rescuer to rehabilitate those who are not injured or ill.

We do have excellent links with the RSPCA and other wildlife centres and we try to move those cases that are suitable as soon as possible.

Unfortunately sometimes the only kind answer is to put the casualty to sleep,

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which we do with regret if necessary.