

IS YOUR DOG PROTECTED AGAINST KENNEL COUGH.

With the onset of the warmer weather, it's time for pets to get out and about more- however wherever dogs meet they run the risk of picking up Kennel Cough. This is a highly infectious cough that affects dogs, rapidly causing symptoms of severe coughing and breathlessness as well as high temperatures, sore throats and loss of appetite. In the worst cases (such as in young & elderly dogs) it can cause severe & prolonged disease and may even be associated with death. This distressing condition is caused by a mixture of viruses and a bacterium- Bordetella bronchiseptica. Luckily a vaccine is available, although unlike your dogs normal routine vaccines, the kennel cough vaccine is given by intra-nasal drops. If you would like further advice on kennel cough then please contact either surgery where a member of staff will be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

GOING FOR GOLD!

Appointments with Mr Wilson will not be available in August as he and his wife Jenny will be travelling to China to support their daughter Pippa and her team mates in their quest for sailing gold. We wish them all every success in this exciting challenge.

STRESS !

Some stress in pets lives is normal but can cause problems for them and their owners.

Moving home,builders or the arrival of a new baby can make it difficult for pets to adapt to changes in their normal routines or environment. That's where we can help, there are many products that we can advise on from plug in diffusers that produce soothing pheromones, to herbal remedies that can help calm an anxious pet.

New on the market is ZYLKENE which is a natural product, its hypo- allergenic, preservative and lactose free. Zylkene is palatable and can even be mixed with water, and help your pet deal with the challenging situations that can cause stress. Please ask your veterinary surgeon for more information.

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GUINEA PIGS.

Guinea pigs are great pets that are fun to look after and form a close bond with their owners, especially if they are handled regularly.

They can be kept as outdoor or indoor pets, but if they are kept outside they need their hutch to be well protected from rain and direct sun.

They enjoy plenty of exercise and do well if given time out of the hutch in the house or in a run each day. Coming from the South American grasslands, they are best fed on a diet of grass, hay, fruit and vegetables together with some high quality commercially prepared Guinea pig food that's has vitamin C added.

Throughout the year, guinea pigs should be checked every day; problems to watch out for include chest infections (that can follow bad weather or stress), diarrhoea (which can relate to infections or change in diet), skin disease due to mites and dental problems (usually associated with overgrown teeth). Prompt treatment always gives the best chance of recovery.

STAYING COOL IN THE**WARM WEATHER !**

Late, light nights and warm weather make summer particularly fun for many pets, but there are many hazards associated with the season that we need to bear in mind. Cats with white ear tips and noses are particularly at risk from sunburn so apply a high factor sun cream daily.

When walking the dog avoid ponds that may contain dangerous algae, check your pets for grass seeds and ticks if they have been in the long grass before they penetrate the skin and cause problems. Rabbits, in particular need to be monitored carefully for fly strike which is very painful and frequently results in death.

Watch out for snake bites which require prompt attention, also to be aware that pets can have an allergic reaction to bee and wasp stings and may need veterinary attention. Finally don't leave your pet unattended in a hot car.

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