



# HILLSIDE VETERINARY CENTRE

## SUMMER 2007 Newsletter

# NEWS

The Hillside Summer '07 newsletter includes interesting articles on micro-chipping your pet, PETS passports, how it has become increasingly more important to insure your pet, avoid unnecessary leakages and your pet Summer Survival Guide! Have a great Summer.

### Kennel cough vaccinations up-to-date?

Booked your summer holidays? Don't forget your dog's kennel cough vaccine. Vaccination against kennel cough is a requirement for most kennels and is normally expected to have been given at least a week before arrival at the kennels. Even if you're not booking your dog into kennels the disease is more prominent at this time of year and is worth considering. Prevention really is better than cure.



Vet, Keith performing an X-Ray on Tilly the cat

### Surgery times

Don't forget we are open until 8pm Wednesdays ...

Mon - Fri: 8.30am – 6.30pm

Wednesdays: 8.30am – 8pm

Saturdays: 8.30am – 5pm

Telephone or Email for an appointment

T: 698899

E: [mail@hillsidevets.co.uk](mailto:mail@hillsidevets.co.uk)

## The miracle of microchips!

THE thought of losing a pet is hard to contemplate, but if the unthinkable does happen, how prepared are you? Your pet is now a stray, and – very sadly, many strays are never reunited with their owners since they cannot be reliably identified.

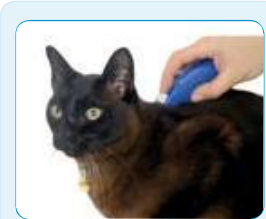


The good news is that in addition to the traditional collar and engraved tag, you can now have your pet *permanently* identified with a tiny microchip, giving you the best chance of being reunited



with your pet in such cases. Also, any pets travelling abroad with the Pet Travel Scheme must first be microchipped to allow them to be easily identified.

Dogs, cats and other small animals can be microchipped. The procedure involves using a straightforward injection to place a tiny chip (smaller than a grain of rice) under the skin of a pet, which carries a unique identification number. The number on the chip can be "read" using a special scanner, allowing the pet to be individually identified. Veterinary practices, the police, and animal welfare organisations routinely



A tiny microchip is easily injected under the skin.



A special scanner is used to "read" the unique I.D code. This code speedily identifies your pet.

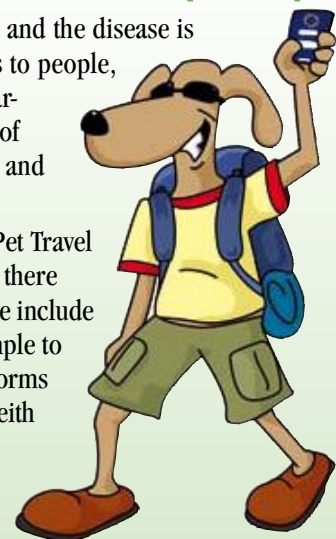
scan all strays hopefully ensuring you and your pet are speedily reunited.

Ask at reception to see if you qualify for the RSPCA discount.

## Rabies and the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS)

Rabies can affect all mammals, including humans, and the disease is zoonotic, which means it can spread from animals to people, commonly by a dog, bat or monkey bite. It is a particularly nasty disease and symptoms include loss of appetite, fever, paralysis, aggression, hydrophobia and ultimately death.

Pets travelling abroad are now required under the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) to be vaccinated against rabies and there are a number of important things to consider - these include permanent microchip, relevant vaccines, blood sample to check immunity, signed PETS passport, ticks and worms treatment. We offer a FREE pre-travel check with Keith one of our vets, to ensure all necessary preventative measures are taken and to check all paperwork a month before travel.



Cat photo (left): Jane Burton Cartoon: Gareth Davies.

## Pet Insurance – don't be caught without it!



YOU insure yourself, your house and your car – but what about your pet? Veterinary medicine has, in recent years, become increasingly sophisticated. The good news is that we are now able to diagnose and treat many conditions which – just a few years ago – were totally untreatable.

Each year, on average 1 in 3 pets suffer illness or injury, so unexpected veterinary bills can, unfortunately, occur at any time! We often think of insurance covering treatment of broken bones or wounds following road traffic accidents, but don't forget animals can develop many long-term conditions such as skin disease, ear problems, heart disease and arthritis, (to name just a few!), for which an increasing range of treatment options are now available.

With appropriate insurance cover, we can hopefully ensure that your pet will get the best of care without the cost of treatment becoming a limiting factor. Don't take any chances, make sure your pet is insured!

## The heat is on – summer survival guide!

WITH the onset of warmer summer weather, now is the time to ensure your pets enjoy the summer but stay fit and well at the same time.



**Cover up!** Cats are notorious sun worshippers and often make a beeline for the sunniest spot in the garden. Skin cancer is a particular risk for cats with *white* ear tips and noses. The key to reducing this risk is blocking sunlight with non-toxic high factor sun block. The earliest signs of skin cancer are a reddening of the skin – similar to sunburn.



Ear tip of a cat showing early cancerous changes. If your pet is showing any signs of skin changes, please arrange a check-up.

When out and about, **grass seeds** of the meadow grasses are another summer problem.

They become easily attached to dogs' coats and can work their way into the pads, or become trapped in dogs' ears, usually causing severe head shaking. In view of this, thorough inspection of the coat is recommended following walks.

**Bee stings** are another seasonal problem. Pets are by nature inquisitive, and if they try and make friends with bees and wasps, they are likely to be stung for their efforts. Prompt veterinary attention may



be required because some dogs (like humans) are allergic to bee stings.

**Flies** pose a huge risk for **rabbits** during the warmer weather. Rabbit rear ends often become damp and this moist area attracts flies which lay their eggs there; these develop into flesh eating maggots. This is a very serious condition; during the summer months rabbits rear ends should be inspected *daily* for fly eggs and maggots. If in any doubt – please call!

Don't forget to keep treating your pets regularly against **fleas, ticks** and **worms** and remember, **never ever leave a pet in a car on a hot day.**



## A leaky problem



DO YOU find damp patches around the home where your dog has been lying? Urinary incontinence can occur in dogs of all ages, and of either sex, but is particularly common in older female dogs.

Symptoms may occur during the day, or at night when sleeping, and may result in obvious puddles in the house, or soggy fur and a damp bed. As well as being annoying to owners, it can cause skin damage and infection, and also makes dogs feel unloved and ashamed; so it is important to all concerned to address problems of urinary incontinence promptly when they occur.

Urine is retained in the bladder by specialised sphincter muscles around the bladder neck. If these muscles relax a little while your pet is at rest or asleep, urine will leak out. Other reasons for incontinence include abnormal development, underlying bladder stones, prostate problems, or even excessive drinking, and further investigation is often needed to make a diagnosis. Once the cause of the problem has been identified, appropriate treatment can be started, and is usually successful.

So – if your dog's waterworks seem a bit leaky – give us a call!