

**practice  
news...**

## Home Visit Service

We can now offer a Home Visit Service for those clients who find it difficult bringing their pets to the surgery. All routine visits for boosters, check ups, microchipping, flea and worm treatment can be carried out in your own home. In addition to our normal fees there will be a home visit surcharge, to find out more please contact our;

Lewes Surgery on 01273 473232.

## SURGERY OPENING TIMES

### LEWES

21 Cliffe High Street, Lewes is open for appointments Monday to Friday, with an open surgery on Saturday mornings.

Tel: 01273 473232

### WOODINGDEAN

57 Warren Way, Woodingdean is open for appointments Monday to Friday, with an open surgery on Saturday mornings.

Tel: 01273 302609

### RINGMER

70 Springett Avenue, Ringmer is open for appointments Monday to Friday.

Tel: 01273 814590

FOR ALL EQUINE SERVICES

### LAUGHTON EQUINECLINIC

Mill Lane, Laughton, Sussex  
Tel: 01323 815120

### 24HR EMERGENCY SERVICE

TELEPHONE: (01273) 473232

**CLIFFE**



**VETERINARY GROUP**

[www.cliffevets.co.uk](http://www.cliffevets.co.uk)

# Kennel Cough

by Emma Coles  
Drove Veterinary Hospital



If your dog regularly goes into kennels you may well be familiar with the kennel cough vaccination, but it is not only those dogs which may be at risk.

Kennel cough can be quite distressing for owner and dog alike. The dog usually coughs repeatedly until it wretches white froth, after exercise or any excitement. Sometimes it only lasts a few days, but for some animals it can hang around for a long time. They are often eating ok, but are usually subdued and not so keen to go out on walks.

It is caused by two main infectious origins, a virus and bacteria, though milder forms can occur with many different viruses. These bugs are spread through the air so crucially any place where many dogs congregate are high risk areas. These include dog shows, kennels and popular dog walking fields as well as training classes.

Treatment depends on the severity of the infection. Mild forms in middle aged healthy dogs are often self curing, with medication to soothe the discomfort. Puppies and elderly dogs, especially those with heart/lung conditions are of more concern, and they often require antibiotics, and possibly hospitalisation to ensure pneumonia does not develop.

The vaccination against kennel cough lasts a year, and usually can be given at the same time as their annual injection. It is administered by a squirt up the nose, to

give protection directly where the infection enters the dog's body. This can sometimes be a little eventful if the dog is not used to having their nose touched, but starting at a young age can help acclimatise them, as well as keep them covered for all their socialisation!

Unfortunately we cannot vaccinate against all strains of kennel cough, much like the common cold virus for us. So occasionally after contact with other dogs, yours may have a mild cough, even though it is vaccinated. These infections are usually less severe than true kennel cough, though sometimes still need treating.

If your dog is diagnosed with Kennel Cough they should be quarantined from other dogs, not walked, and you should refrain from dog training, agility classes and dog shows in an attempt to contain the spread of the disease and lessen the risk to other dogs.

Please bear in mind that there are many other causes of 'Coughing Dogs' including Heart Problems, Lungworm, Chest and Airway problems. It is always recommended that your dog has a check up with their Vet to determine the cause.

If you have any worries or concerns about topics raised in this article, please don't hesitate to contact your local Vet for advice.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHIER FUTURE

# Small talk

SUMMER EDITION

**CLIFFE**



**VETERINARY GROUP**

**SMALL ANIMAL  
NEWSLETTER**

**All the Latest  
News from  
your XLVets  
Practice...**

Don't Forget...  
**Kennel Cough**

**Worming**

Why it's important  
to get it right!



# Fighting Fleas



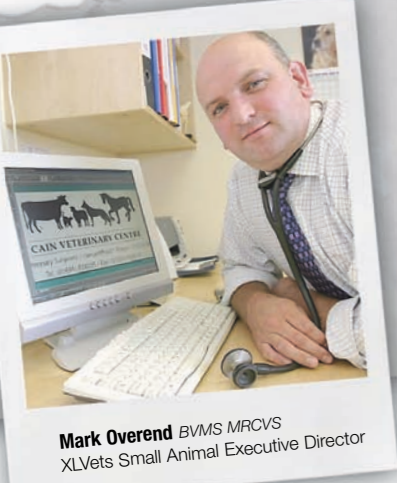
**XLVets**  
Excellence in Practice

**Controlling both the fleas on your pet  
and the infestation in your house...**

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# Welcome...

...to this edition of XLVets **Small Talk**

**Mark Overend** BVMS MRCVS  
XLVets Small Animal Executive Director

**Who are XLVets?**  
XLVets is a group of independent veterinary practices, located the length and breadth of the UK, who are committed to 'Excellence in Practice.'

Our policy is to work together, to provide a compassionate and caring service for all species of animals and at the same time offer comprehensive and up-to-date treatment in all fields of veterinary medicine and surgery.

As part of our commitment to clinical excellence, one of our remits is to ensure that our vets are kept up to date with the latest advances in veterinary practice. This involves on-going lectures and training for our vets, but also our nurse and reception staff who are all important to the smooth running of our practices.

We are also keen to ensure that our clients are kept up to date with health issues in pets, and so this magazine, written by our own vets, sets out to achieve this.

**I hope you enjoy it.**



**DID YOU KNOW...**  
...that **95%** of the flea population live in the environment

Kindly supplied by Merial Animal Health

This means that for every 5 fleas you find on your pet there will be 95 in the house or garden!! Not a nice thought especially when we know what problems fleas can cause. From allergic skin irritations to tapeworms, fleas are definitely an unwanted pest.

# Fighting Fleas...

The good news is there are some very good products available for treating both the fleas on your pets AND the infestation in your house.

The experts have described the gold standard method of controlling fleas as 'Integrated flea control' and it involves tackling the problem from a number of angles

- 1 Use an effective spot on product to kill the adult fleas on the pet.
- 2 Also use an insect growth regulator to stop the flea life cycle in its tracks. The most efficient point to use this is on the animal. Remember, the flea only lays its eggs on the pet so by using an animal treatment you will completely block the lifecycle from that point forward.
- 3 Wash bedding and vacuum to decrease any pre-existing infestation.
- 4 Understand the flea lifecycle and so be able to tackle the problem from all angles.

## Don't forget...

- It can take months to rid your home of fleas - a single treatment will not be sufficient!
- Treat all the areas your pets frequent such as the car, outdoor buildings, dog kennels etc.
- For effective flea prevention (once the initial infestation is eliminated), you should continue treatment all year round. Fleas can live and breed all year in your home.
- Prevention is always better than cure.
- Any breaks in treatment will mean your pets are at risk of picking up fleas again. Once on your pet they will start rapidly breeding and laying eggs (50 per day!) which will infest your home.

**If you fail to keep up with regular treatments your home and pet are at risk of re-infestation!!!**



**Remember** 1 flea can lay 50 eggs per day... that can add up to 1500 in its lifetime!!  
You can see how quickly even the cleanest home can become infested.

# Summer is 'bursting' out all over!

by Dr Krista Arnold Drove Veterinary Hospital

Winter is behind us, days lengthening and, with temperatures steadily warming we start to emerge for longer from our homes. Not only we humans, but also our pets, start to enjoy outdoor activities once more. Many dogs get those longer walks they have craved all winter and for our cats the joys of curling up by a warm fire or radiator are balanced by the need to get out and check one's local territory as temperatures rise both by day and by night.

For both cats and dogs the relative isolation of the winter months now gives way to more animal contact - and with this comes more opportunities for potential diseases to spread.

As weather patterns change, so do the various natural parasites to which our pets may be exposed. In recent years a deadly lungworm, which can also cause severe bleeding problems, has steadily become an

increasing threat to British dogs. This tiny but lethal parasite may be carried by the slugs and snails, which, with the new warmth of Spring, are also emerging to the annoyance of all gardeners. Some dogs actually consider these molluscs to be a tasty morsel, whilst others may innocently ingest the smaller varieties whilst chewing grass or playing with outdoor toys or bones. Happily a therapy, which can easily be applied regularly to a dog's skin and is effective against this and many other unpleasant parasites, is now available from vets.

Whether it is the vaccines used against a wide range of communicable pet diseases, or anti parasitic medications to control debilitating and sometimes lethal parasites, both are most effective if given at the appropriate time - so that it is only the joys of Spring which burst out all over.



## Worming - Why it's important to get it right!

by Mark Overend BVMS MRCVS Cain Veterinary Centre

The UK has seen an increase in a tapeworm which lives in the gut of dogs. Hydatid Disease is caused by a tapeworm and can be picked up by humans if they come into contact with dog faeces. It is on the increase in certain parts of the UK and is more likely to occur when a dog has been fed or allowed to scavenge on infected sheep carcasses.

A dog becomes infected when it eats a sheep carcass containing hydatid cysts. Worm heads in the hydatid cyst grow into a small tapeworm in the gut of the dog and produce eggs.

Humans can pick up these eggs when handling infected dogs or coming

into contact with dog faeces. The cysts, which can be large in humans, can form in the lungs, liver, brain and other sites. As the cysts act like a tumour in the body it is an extremely dangerous disease. There is a particular concern for children who develop the disease.

Prevention is simple in the form of routine worming, but using the correct product is essential.

For more information on hydatid disease, or worming your dog, please speak to your vet. Be a responsible dog owner, and make sure your dog is wormed properly!

There is, however, another worm found in dogs and cats which is potentially dangerous to human health. Toxocara Canis, and Toxocara Can, more commonly known as Roundworms have been known to cause blindness in children.

Roundworms are the commonest worms found in dogs and cats of all ages, but especially puppies and kittens. All puppies and kittens are born with roundworms. By 3 weeks of age, they can be found in the intestine, and eggs are passed in pup/kitten motions. Heavy infestations can lead to poor growth or ill thrift and a 'pot belly', but often there is nothing to indicate that your pet has worms. This is why it is so important to make sure dogs and cats are regularly wormed, whether there's any evidence of worms or not.

By worming regularly, and picking up your dog's poo not only will you improve your dog's health, but you will also reduce environmental contamination, and eliminate any possibility of human infection.

You may actually stop someone from going blind!