FACT SHEET

Henlow Veterinary Hospital

PARASITES & FLEAS

Fleas are parasites that feed off of the blood of pets, wild animal and humans.

COMMON SIGNS Your Pet has Fleas

Some pets can develop a flea allergy, which causes a skin irritation.

- Scratching more than is normal for them
- Finding flea's or flea dirt on their skin or coat
- Finding bites on your pet or yourself

A female flea can lay up to 50 eggs per day. The complete life cycle of egg, larvae, pupae and adult flea often takes 3-4 weeks however does differ depending on conditions and temperatures.

When you are out walking with your dog or your cat goes exploring, they are inevitably going be exposed to fleas. As fleas jump and attach themselves to things, you could also unknowingly pick up the parasite from outdoors on your clothing or shoes and bring them indoors too.

CARE Should Also Be Taken...

if purchasing pre loved items such as carpets, furnishings or bedding.

Pets with fleas may also develop low red blood cells (anaemia), and fleas can transmit tapeworms, other parasites and infections.

In order to control fleas we recommend parasite prevention and treatment regularly to prevent or treat infestations. Please speak to us for more information on what the best treatment is for your pet. We can also recommend a house spray if appropriate.

We also recommend regular washing of pet bedding, vacuum floors, skirting boards and furniture, and emptying of the vacuum cleaner. Grooming your pet regularly so you can spot any early signs of infestation is also advisable.

TICKS

Ticks are small round parasites, commonly found in the UK in vegetation and long grass. They attach themselves to animals as they pass by, and they feed on the animals blood.

They can be cream, grey or brown in colour and start off small and increase in size as they feed. They often get mistaken for skin tags or small lumps.

It is important to protect against ticks as not only are they uncomfortable they can also transmit disease to your pet and humans.

If you have any concerns regarding fleas, ticks or any other parasite please speak to a member of the team.

TAPEWORM & ROUNDWORM

There are various worms that can infect your pet. Round worm and Tapeworm are the most common.

It is important for your pet and your family to keep up to date with worm control as some roundworm and some types of tapeworm can be passed on to humans and may cause disease and even sight issues.

Worm burdens can be contracted by cats and dogs by ingesting eggs from the environment, via their mothers, or animal faeces.

SIGNS OF WORMS INCLUDE

- Vomiting and diarrhoea
- Weight loss
- Increase in appetite
- Swollen abdomen
- Worms present in their faeces or in extreme cases vomiting

LUNG WORM

Lungworm in dogs is becoming more common across the UK.

Pets are at risk if coming into contact with slugs, snails and their trails.

Lungworms can migrate around the body causing breathing issues, unexplained bleeding and bruising, and in extreme cases seizures and death.

We have parasite treatments available which include lungworm protection, please speak to a member of the team to make sure your parasite control meets your pet's needs.

HENLOW VETERINARY HOSPITAL