

Aireworth Vets

SMALL ANIMAL



NEWS



Visit our website:
www.aireworthvets.co.uk

Autumn 2011

Ear disease - an earie tale!

Did you know that ear problems are surprisingly common in pets? However unlike the condition in people, where 'ear aches' frequently involve the middle and inner ear, most ear problems in pets occur in the outer or *external* ear canals.

Anatomically, the ear is protected externally by a pinna (or flap). A narrow external ear canal carries sound down to the ear drum, where it passes onto the middle and inner ear. In the healthy ear the opening to the external ear canal is lined with smooth pink (or pigmented) skin with no evidence of any redness or discharge.

As mentioned above, most of the ear problems seen in pets occur in the *external* ear canal - a condition called **otitis externa** (sometimes called canker). Signs of otitis externa commonly include ear rubbing, head shaking and reddened, irritated skin lining the external ear canal. Additionally there is often discharge which may be foul smelling.



There are several underlying causes of otitis externa. These include ear mites (*otodectes cynotis*) and trapped foreign bodies such as grass seeds. Localised allergies affecting the skin lining the external ear canal are another cause, leading to scratching, which allows opportunistic bacterial and fungal infections to infect the external ear canal.

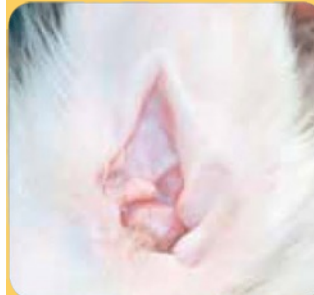
In common with many conditions, the key to success with otitis externa is *early diagnosis and treatment*. If your pet is showing any of the symptoms described above, please bring them in for a thorough examination.

Dermatology Clinics

Dr. Kirsten Pantenburg MRCVS is working towards a certificate in Veterinary Dermatology. She will be starting 30 minute appointment slots on Thursday and Friday afternoon for pets with skin problems. For further information please contact the surgery.



The ear cross section



Healthy ear in the dog: view on pinna and opening to the external ear canal



Otitis Externa in a dog: Brown discharge and red, sore pinna

Autumn Alarm!



Its hard to believe that Summer is over and Autumn is upon us again. Although this time of year has a beauty of its own, it also holds many hazards for our pets:

Fleas are an ever present problem, so now is not the time to lower your guard against these little pests.



Ticks are another Autumn hazard, living in long grass and woodland areas. Ticks clamber onto pets, firmly attaching themselves and feeding on their blood. Worse still they spread a range of diseases including lyme disease.



As the weather cools down **bees** and **wasps** become dozy and are easily caught by cats and dogs, but can still give your pet a nasty sting!

Keep your pet safe this autumn! Let us advise you on keeping your pet parasite free. Please contact us for more information.

PUPPY PARTIES

The first 16 weeks of a puppy's life are what is known as the **"Human Socialisation Period"**. This is the time when you need to introduce your puppy to as many things as possible. Learning at this age is permanent so this is a perfect time to start training. **Aireworth Vets** puppy parties are informal with no set itinerary, which gives your puppy the freedom to play and socialise with other puppy's. Hosted by one of our qualified veterinary nurses the parties cover a range of puppy related topics ranging from socialising to toilet training.

The puppy parties are a course of 3 meetings, each running approximately 45 minutes. In the parties the puppies meet and greet each other and the qualified nurse will go through a selection of the topics but will also be available for more specific questions you may have about puppy care. So long as your puppy is 5 months or younger and fully vaccinated. To book your puppy in or for more information please contact the surgery.



Remember Remember Your Pets This November

Fireworks are enjoyed year-round by people, but can be a source of fear for many animals. It doesn't have to be that way though, so don't ignore the problem. Seek advice from your vet who will be able to recommend the best course of action for your pet.



Here are some top tips to help you help your pet:

- Make sure your dog or cat always has somewhere to hide if he or she wants to and has access to this place at all times. For example, this could be under a piece of furniture or in a cupboard.
- During firework seasons, walk dogs during daylight hours and keep cats and dogs indoors when fireworks are likely to be set off.
- At nightfall close windows and curtains and put on music to mask and muffle the sound of fireworks.
- If your pet shows any signs of fear, try to ignore their behaviour. Leave them alone unless they are likely to harm themselves.
- Never punish or fuss over your pet when it is scared as this will only make things worse in the long run.
- Make sure your cat or dog is always kept in a safe and secure environment and can't escape if there's a sudden noise. Have your pet microchipped in case they do escape.

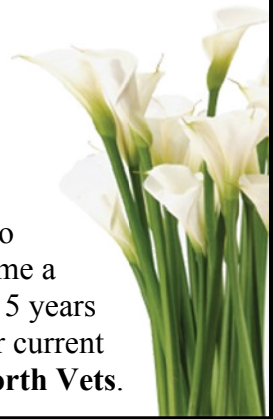
Aireworth Vets prides itself on offering you the best advice for your pet. If the firework season is dreaded by your pets we have a selection of products that can help alleviate the problem. Contact the surgery today to discuss products ranging from plug-in diffusers to tablets that can help the firework season pass without a problem.



Sad News

We are sad to announce the death of **Mr John Michael Green BVSc**, our much loved and long-serving Vet and a previous Partner in the business.

Mr Green was a Bristol graduate who joined the practice in 1958 and became a partner in 1962. He retired in 1999 - 5 years after the practice had moved into our current premises and been re-named **Aireworth Vets**.



Staff News

- **Lucy Ives**, one of our long standing vets has left us for a short period of time to have her first baby we wish her all the best and hope to see her back soon.
- **Alison Dunn** has also left to travel the world. She will be missed and wish her good luck for the future.
- Our new vet **Pete O'Hara** will be joining the practice in September. Pete is joining us from a practice in Burnley and has a keen interest in orthopaedics.
- Also welcome to our locum vet **Bethan Cosgrove** who will be working with us over the Autumn period.

