

Aireworth Vets

SMALL ANIMAL



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Visit our website:

www.aireworthvets.co.uk

Summer 2011

Pet Insurance

Everyone knows that a pet is for life and with that comes responsibility. Here at Aireworth Vets we strive to provide the best possible healthcare and offer a wide variety of modern treatments such as chemotherapy and 24hr hospital care. Veterinary practices are privately funded as unfortunately there is no NHS for pets. All equipment, medicines and staff have to be paid through the practice's fees.

A 'cover for life' pet insurance policy gives you peace of mind when it comes to those unexpected occasions when your pet is unwell, so that you can afford to undertake any and all procedures necessary to aid your pet's recovery or treatment.

There are hundreds of pet insurance companies offering a variety of products and not all pet insurance policies are the same. It's important to choose your policy wisely. There are three main types of pet insurance policies;

'**Lifetime/cover for life**' policies - ideal cover that provides ongoing cover for life conditions such as diabetes or eczema.

'**Time limited**' policies - cover is limited to a maximum value and ongoing life conditions such as diabetes will only be covered for the first 12 months.

'**Maximum benefit**' policies - cover is provided up to a maximum amount per condition but there is no time limit.

Contact us at the practice for more information and receive 4 weeks FREE insurance from PetPlan. *

* Subject to terms and conditions.



Wildlife & You

Every spring and summer the RSPCA and Aireworth Vets are contacted by thousands of people who find what they think is an abandoned young bird. In most cases these youngsters have not been abandoned and 'rescuing' them may do more harm than good. Their mother is usually close by and looking out for them - human interference can lessen a young animal's chances of survival.

Don't panic if you see a young wild animal on its own

If you find a young bird out of its nest, it is probably a fledgling. Fledglings of garden birds usually leave the nest about two weeks after hatching - just before they can fly. They will have grown all or most of their feathers and are very mobile and can walk, run and hop on low branches.

DON'T return a fledgling to its nest as you may disturb other young birds. Fledglings are fed by their parents who are rarely far away, encouraging the youngsters to stay in cover. Often one parent will look after the fledgling while the other makes a nest for a second even third brood of young.

If you are worried, go away from the site and return in an hour or so. You will almost certainly find that the natural parents are taking care of the youngster. Young animals which are in immediate danger from a predator or traffic should be placed out of harm a short distance away.

If you think a bird is genuinely orphaned - for example, both parents have been killed by a cat or it is clearly sick - put it in a dark, warm box and take it to your nearest veterinary practice or RSPCA centre for on-going treatment rehabilitation.



Feline Leukaemia Virus - is your cat vaccinated?

DID YOU know that Feline Leukaemia Virus infection is one of the most common causes of premature death in cats? The virus is found in the saliva of infected cats and is mainly spread by direct contact of one cat with another - usually licking or biting..

Although the virus can cause true leukaemia, on many occasions the effects are more related to suppression of the cats immune system - leaving it fatally exposed to infections that a healthy cat would normally recover from. The disease is however unrelated to any human condition and quite specific to cats.

The good news is that there is a very effective vaccine, giving cats protection against this deadly disease. Please contact us at the practice for further information or an appointment.

Lungworm - is your dog at risk?

Lungworm is a parasite which infects dogs and foxes in the UK. An infection with this parasite can prove fatal, dog owners are urged to be aware of the signs of infection, and to prevent and treat the parasite. Once seen as a problem in isolated areas in Southern England, Wales and Ireland, lungworm has spread, with cases now also being reported in Northern England and Scotland. Although the reason for the spread is unclear, experts have pointed to a number of contributing factors. These include the movement of infected dogs and foxes across the country and changes in slug and snail populations, possibly influenced by climate change.

Dogs become infected with lungworm through eating slugs and snails which may be carrying the larvae of the parasite.



What are the symptoms?

When lungworm gets inside a dog it can result in a number of symptoms, your dog could present with one or more of the following symptoms if infected with lungworm:

1. Breathing problems or coughing, tiring more easily
2. Poor blood clotting leading to excessive bleeding from minor wounds and nose bleeds
3. Behaviour changes, seizures (fits), spinal pain, weight loss, loss of appetite, vomiting and diarrhoea.

If you notice any of these symptoms or if it seems your dog is at risk it is important to talk to your vet, early diagnosis and treatment will give your dog the best chance of complete recovery.

While some dogs will eat slugs and snails on purpose, the hidden danger arises from small slugs and snails, which can be swallowed when dogs are drinking from outdoor water bowls, playing with toys left out in the garden, or rummaging through the undergrowth.

But this infection can be treated if detected early, with a monthly application it can be prevented. Ask your vet today for more information on preventing lungworm.

Be Cool this Summer

Don't leave your dog alone in a car.

If it's warm outside and you're going out in the car, think very carefully about what you are going to do with your dog. You should never leave a dog alone in a car.

It can get unbearably hot in a car on a sunny day, even when it's not that warm. Unlike humans, dogs pant to help keep themselves cool. In a hot stuffy car, dogs can't cool down - leaving a window open or a sunshield on your windscreen won't keep your car cool enough. Sadly, we have already seen 2 dogs seen this summer, both died from heatstroke in hot cars.

FACT; when it's 22°C outside, the temperature inside a car can soar to 47°C within 60 minutes.

Under the Animal Welfare Act you now have a legal duty to care for your animal and if you put your animal at risk, you could face prosecution

If you see a dog in a car on a warm day please call the Police on 999.

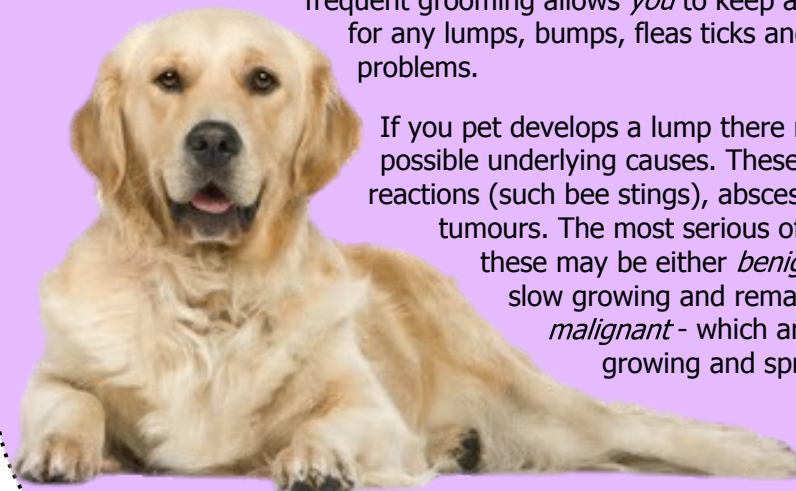
Don't ignore that lump!

One of the 'golden rules' of veterinary practice is that early detection of problems will generally give us a much better chance of sorting things out and the regular health examinations we give your pet are a key part of this approach. In addition, frequent grooming allows *you* to keep a watchful eye out for any lumps, bumps, fleas ticks and a host of other problems.

If your pet develops a lump there may be several possible underlying causes. These include allergic reactions (such as bee stings), abscesses, hernias and tumours. The most serious of these are tumours; these may be either *benign* - which tend to be slow growing and remain in one place, or *malignant* - which are frequently fast growing and spread to distant parts of the body.



Lump on a dogs belly



If you do find a lump it is therefore very important we examine it as soon as possible - in order to establish the underlying cause and start any required treatment without delay. If you are concerned about a lump on your pet - or any other health problem, don't delay - please contact us for an appointment.

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Gibbins on winning a goody bag for their dog Jack from the spring newsletter competition.