



CULLODEN VET CLINIC NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018

CULLODEN VETERINARY CLINIC, KEPPOCH ROAD, CULLODEN, INVERNESS, IV2 7LL

Welcome to the second of our quarterly practice newsletters. We are a local community 100% small animal practice based in the centre of Culloden in the beautiful, and occasionally sunny, City of Inverness. In this issue we will be introducing a new veterinary range pet food and looking at pet first aid.



New Natures Range Pet Foods

We are pleased to announce the release of a new dry pet food range exclusive to My Family Vet practices. You won't find this available in pet stores, supermarkets or any other retail outlet. This range covers all age groups of dogs and cats from youngsters through to the senior family members. There are also lighter calorie versions available. Ask in our clinic for further information or have a look at:
<https://www.naturesrangepetfood.co.uk>

We have a special introductory offer of Buy One get One Free on all bags! Why not grab a bargain and give it a try? We are sure your pet will love it and feel the benefits of a great quality diet.



Pet Health Club

At Culloden Vets we have a Pet Health Club to break down the costs of veterinary care, especially those relating to preventative care with lots of treatments and discounts included in the plan. The plan works by setting up a monthly direct debit between £7.80 and £20.00 depending upon the size of your pet. It is very easy to set up and please feel free to ask us for further information or visit our website.



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Consultations by Appointment

Opening Hours: - Mon – Fri 8am – 7pm

Sat 9am-1pm

(24 hour emergency service)

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It's Getting Hot Out There

Summer at last you might say and we all love the warmer weather and we love spending more time outdoors with our pets. Here are a few topical tips to help you enjoy the summer with your pets.

Parasite alert. It is important to be using the correct flea and tick treatment for your pet. Have a look through your pets coat daily after walks to check if any ticks have become attached. Remember to check under the belly, armpits and ear flaps. Ticks will usually appear grey in colour and will become larger as they feed on your pet. There are several products to use against ticks. Please ask us so we can discuss the best one for your pet. **UV Alert,** cats with white noses and white ear tips are at risk of getting these areas sunburnt and this can lead to cancerous changes. High factor special pet safe sun cream can be applied to the white at-risk areas and can help reduce the risk. **Rabbits and Guinea Pigs** need to be kept in a cool, shaded area as if they are kept in direct sun they can struggle to lose heat and may succumb to heat stroke. **Flystrike** is a huge problem in the summer months. Flies are attracted to moist and dirty areas to lay their eggs which will quickly hatch into maggots which will feed on the skin. This is especially concerning for rabbits. The condition is very painful and can result in death if not treated quickly. You should check your rabbits coat, especially around their bottom, twice daily, keep their hutches very clean and remove any loose stools as soon as possible. There are licensed products that can be applied to your rabbits fur to prevent fly attraction and so minimise the risk



When out walking with your dog the risk of injury is of concern to a lot of pet

owners. **First Aid** is quite a large subject to cover so in this short article we will cover the more basic and common first aid situations you may encounter.

With summer (hopefully) just around the corner heat stroke is unfortunately quite common and can present as a real emergency to the clinic. Dogs are unable to regulate their body temperature in the way we do. They can become quite distressed in these situations especially Brachycephalic breeds with short noses that are compromised anyway. It is important if at all possible to check the weather forecast before leaving to go anywhere if you plan to take the dog in the car. Avoid exercise in the middle of the day or when it's at its hottest. If at all possible wait until evening or early morning. Even with the windows open it can still get very hot in the car. If you are concerned that your pet may be suffering from Hyperthermia make sure fresh clean water is available and cool them down slowly with cold wet towels over them and a fan. Then take them to your vet as soon as possible.

Of course, in other emergency situations it is important to firstly make sure that it is safe to approach the animal. Talk to the animal and re-assure them at all times. Check surrounding area for any danger to yourself. Bare in mind also in these situations the animal will often be frightened and in pain which can make them act out of character and bite. If you do need to examine them for the extent of injuries it may be necessary to place a muzzle on them. If none available you could tie something round their nose briefly or place something over their head. Get assistance as soon as possible and call the vet immediately!

If there is bleeding it is important to control this as much as possible and get the pet to the nearest vet straight away. Excessive blood loss can lead to a type of shock which can be life threatening. Check the colour of their gums if they will let you but do not get bitten. The gums should be a nice pink colour and if you gently press on the gum it will go white briefly then go back to pink in 2

secs or less. If it takes longer to go back to pink it can indicate a problem. Talk to them and raise the hindlimbs if at all possible to encourage blood flow back to the vital organs. You can apply direct pressure to the wound to control bleeding or if unable to do this apply indirect pressure above the wound. Important to get the animal to the vet immediately!



Also, at this time of year it is common for pets to get stung by Bees and Wasps. They may take a reaction to the sting so monitor for signs of swelling (Anaphylaxis) especially around the mouth & throat which may compromise breathing. If this does happen take them to the nearest vet immediately! You can remove the sting by squeezing under it to make it come up and out. For Bee stings clean with Bicarbonate of Soda and for Wasp stings clean with Vinegar. Also applying an ice pack will help soothe and reduce swelling.

Drowning is another potential and very serious accident that could happen when out with your dog. You should NEVER put yourself at risk and firstly try calling/encouraging the dog over to you. If you do manage to get the animal out of the water wipe away any material around the mouth area and if at all possible hold them upside down or raise the back legs to aid drainage. Check for signs of breathing and if no breathing, begin CPR. Place hands round muzzle to create seal and give 5 breaths up the nose then 30 chest compressions with hands over heart behind elbow with pet on its side. Get help and get the animal to the nearest vet as soon as possible.

This is only very brief and covers a small portion of Pet First Aid. There are of course Pet First Aid courses available should you wish. If you would like further info on this please contact Karen at the surgery.