



Drumahoe Veterinary Clinic

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NEWS

Going on holiday?

Remember to book your kennels.
 We have excellent DARD approved kennels for dogs and cats.



We require all animals to be fully vaccinated including Kennel Cough in the case of dogs.

The dogs and cats are kennelled in heated separate kennels and are not in contact with any other dogs or cats. We cater for a range of dogs, small to large in size and can accommodate groups of dogs as well as groups of cats.

We endeavour to ensure that your pet is safe, warm, comfortable and well fed to make sure their stay with us is a happy one. Food and bedding are provided.

The cats have their own little gym to allow them to exercise and equally have fun.

Special arrangements can be made to cater for rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters and other small companions and provide for their individual needs.

Consulting Times

Monday - Friday:

8.30 - 9.30am, 1.30 - 2.30pm,
 6.00 - 7.00pm

Saturday:

8.30 - 9.30am, 1 - 2pm

Please note: Consultations by appointment

**24 HOUR SERVICE
 FOR EMERGENCIES
 ☎ (028) 71 311448**

Drumahoe veterinary Clinic Pet Care Plan



Preventative care at an affordable monthly price!

- Annual health check and booster vaccination
- Six month health check
- Year- round flea prevention and worming treatment
- Discounts on other selected services and products
- Optional accidental injury cover

SAVE MONEY • SPREAD COSTS • PAY MONTHLY

At Drumahoe Veterinary Clinic we have designed our care plan so that you as a pet owner can ensure your pets receive the very best quality preventive treatments, through a simple monthly direct debit. The concept of spreading the annual cost of household bills is a well recognised feature of our daily lives- Why should the essential preventative treatments for your pet be any different?

Extra benefits of the plan include discounts on many other products and services at our practice. Why not call our clinic and talk to one of our team for more information and sign up by completing a simple form. Telephone number: **02871 311448**

A few facts on preventative treatment

Why vaccinate:



There is a wide range of infectious diseases from which animals can suffer. Some of these can be fatal. For this reason it is now a priority to prevent these diseases. Vaccination is one of the most effective ways to provide immunity via a simple yearly injection.

Why worm my pet:

Pets can become victims of internal parasites, including various types of worms. This is especially important if you have young children as these worms can spread to them and cause disease. All pets should start preventative worming treatment from a young age and should be continued throughout their lives. There is a variety of products with which to treat them. Our staff are trained and able to advise you which would be most suitable for your pet.



Why use flea and tick prevention:

To keep on top of any pests that may settle in your home or on your pet you are best to use a preventative treatment. Pest control is essential because these parasites, such as fleas and ticks can transmit viruses, and the common flea is an intermediate host for some types of tapeworms. This is usually in a liquid form and is easy to administer. There are also now tablet forms available for dogs that like to swim so they do not have to miss out on their daily dip!





At last, the prospect of warm lazy days and balmy barbecue weather! But as the weather warms up, do take the time to make sure your pets stay safe. Here we look at a few steps you can take to keep them fit and well.

Heat can be a real killer for many pets and for this reason it's a good idea to walk dogs in the morning or evening – before 8am and after 5pm.



If you have space, dogs love cooling down in a paddling pool. Frozen ice treats (photo left) are also a good way of cooling your dog down on a hot day.

Rabbits and guinea pigs are very susceptible to problems arising from excess heat, because – unlike dogs, if they overheat, they cannot pant effectively or sweat to cool themselves down. It is vitally important that they have access to shade at all times, plus cool water – preferably in a bowl (not a bottle).

Factor 50! Cats are natural sunbathers and for many cats this causes no problems. However cats with white ear tips and noses are prone to sunburn and this can lead to cancerous changes over time. High factor sun block applied to the at-risk areas helps to minimise this risk. Call us if you are worried.



Ear tip of a cat with early (reddened) cancerous changes. If your pet is showing signs of skin changes, please call us at once



A grass seed has become lodged between the toes in a dog causing an interdigital cyst

Grass awns of the meadow grasses are an issue at this time of year. They are commonly trapped in dogs' ears (see article right), and may also become embedded in the feet (see photo left) or other areas. In view of this, thorough inspection of the coat is advisable following walks.

Flies are another summer hazard. Flies are very attracted to rabbits if they have soiled bottoms – here they lay their eggs which rapidly hatch out into flesh eating maggots. It is important to check bunnies' bottoms on a daily basis and call us at once if you are worried.

Finally, please remember that the temperature in cars can rise rapidly and death from heat stroke can follow in minutes, so **pets should NEVER be left unattended in cars.**

Guinea pig care!

Guinea pigs, originally from the grasslands of South America, are sociable animals that make great family pets. They thrive on a mixture of hay, fresh greenstuff, fruit and vegetables and can be given small amounts of commercial concentrate. Relatively trouble free, they require no annual vaccinations but we do recommend regular health checks so their teeth and nails can be monitored. Problems to look out for include chest infections (that can follow bad weather or stress), diarrhoea (which can relate to infections or a diet change), skin disease and dental problems (usually associated with overgrown teeth).

If you would like any further information on any aspect of guinea pig care, or if you would like a check-up for your pet, please contact us!



Skin problems may occasionally occur and the most common of these is an infestation with a burrowing mite –



Trixacarus caviae. Affected guinea pigs are itchy and develop scaly skin, which is

often most obvious on the ear tips initially. If untreated, areas of hair loss, self inflicted wounds and skin infections can develop.

Guinea pig: Warren Photographic

Fact file: Ear disease



Does your pet show signs of head shaking and ear scratching? These are commonly seen in dogs and cats and, combined with other symptoms such as ear redness and discharge – point to ear disease as a problem.

The ear is protected externally by a pinna (or flap). A narrow ear canal carries sound to the ear drum where it passes onto the middle and inner ear.

Unlike the situation in humans where middle ear disease is common, most of the problems seen in pets occur in the *external* ear canal – with an often very painful condition called otitis externa.

The key to diagnosing and treating otitis externa is to identify the *underlying* cause. These include:

- **Ear mite infestations** with *Otodectes cynotis* is commonly seen in puppies and kittens and are typically associated with a crusty brown discharge (see photo right). The mites can be identified under the microscope (see inset photo).
- **Foreign bodies** such as grass awns (see panel left) are a common problem in pets and typically present with sudden onset severe head shaking.
- **Allergic dermatitis:** since the ear canal is lined with skin, it can be affected by *localised* allergic skin disease affecting the skin lining the external ear canal. This is often seen as part of a more generalised allergic skin condition, typically involving foot chewing and face rubbing.

In order to effectively treat otitis externa it is very important to identify the underlying cause. Some, such as ear mites or foreign bodies are easily identified and treated. However, over time, the underlying cause is commonly obscured and made worse by *secondary* opportunistic bacterial and fungal infections. So – if your pet is showing signs of ear disease, such as head shaking, ear rubbing or just having a smelly ear, it is very important that we examine them and establish the *underlying* cause of the problem as soon as we can, since this will give us the best chance of a successful long term outcome. Call us today for an appointment!

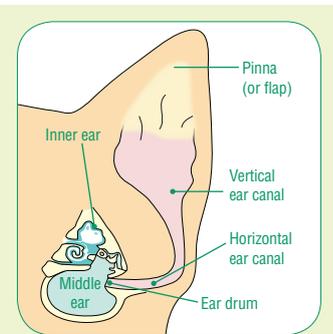
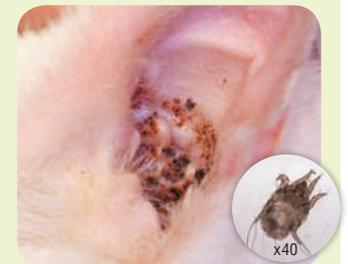


Diagram of the ear. Most problems occur in the vertical and horizontal ear canals



Opening to the vertical ear canal in a cat with a crusty brown discharge typical of **ear mites** *Otodectes cynotis* (inset)



Opening to the vertical ear canal in a dog showing redness and itchiness typical of **allergic skin disease**