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Don't get burnt by these summer pet hazards

Heatstroke

Pets can develop heatstroke when hot environments make their body temperature go above the normal level.

- Symptoms to look out for: dry, pale gums, a bright red tongue, panting, agitation, drooling, vomiting and increased heart rate.
- Prevent it by: giving your pet access to plenty of fresh water, avoiding exercising your dog during the hottest times of day, taking water with you on walks and never leaving your dog in a hot car.

If you think your pet may have heatstroke, please cool them down by pouring a cool shower or hose over their body, and contact us immediately.

Pet travel

When travelling with your pet during summer, it's important to be prepared. We've put together some tips to help you keep your pet safe while on the go.

- Before setting out for longer journeys, familiarise your pet with the act of travelling by sitting them in the car, turning the engine on and going on short trips. Praise and treats will help with this!
- A good supply of treats is advisable, but plenty of water is essential to prevent dehydration.
- Remember to schedule regular toilet stops, and speak to the practice if your pet suffers from travel sickness.
- If your pet is a nervous traveller, pheromone sprays or familiar blankets from home can help to keep them calm.
- Make sure your pet's carrier, cage or harness is secure. Not only will this keep them safe, but following this police guidance will also ensure you're not at risk of fines or invalidating your car insurance in the event of an accident.





Flystrike in rabbits

Flystrike is a life-threatening condition in rabbits, caused by flies laying eggs, which hatch into maggots and begin to feed on the rabbit's flesh.

This can rapidly cause severe injury to our rabbits, and if the damage becomes too bad to treat, sadly putting them down may be the kindest option.

Both indoor and outdoor rabbits are at risk, while rabbits who are overweight, have stiff joints or toileting issues are all at higher risk.

Faeces, urine and blood all attract flies, so it is crucial that you keep your rabbit clean, and that any wounds are treated immediately. Their housing should be cleaned regularly, and any uneaten fresh food should be cleaned up to discourage flies.

Flystrike can happen at any time of the year, but we do see cases most frequently during the summer. Maggots can hatch and cause damage within a matter of hours, so you should check your rabbit over twice daily for signs of fly eggs and maggots during warm weather.

Pay special attention to their bottom, above the tail and around the face.

Other than actually spotting maggots, symptoms can include your rabbit being quiet or withdrawn, eating less, wet or patchy hair loss (sometimes with open wounds) and eventually collapse.

If you think your rabbit may have flystrike, please contact us immediately. Our team will also be happy to answer any questions you have about your bunny's care.



Dental health in cats and dogs

Dental disease is common in dogs and cats, and it's important to take your pet for regular dental check-ups and maintain good dental care at home.

If left untreated, plaque and gum infections can lead to periodontal disease, where deep pockets of infection form under the gumline and teeth eventually become loose.

Symptoms include swollen or bleeding gums, bad breath, discoloured teeth, weight loss, excessive chewing, chewing with one side of the mouth, drooling and bleeding from the mouth.

If you notice any changes or think your pet might have dental disease, please get in touch.

Other potential dental issues include tooth root abscesses, which can be caused by periodontal disease or infections tracking down the inside of a tooth, and chipped, cracked or worn teeth caused by chewing on hard objects.

The best way to look after your pet's teeth is to take them for regular dental appointments, where we can detect any issues or signs of disease.

In between check-ups, it's also advisable to brush your cat or dog's teeth regularly with a pet-safe toothpaste.

Get in touch to book a dental appointment for your pet.



Dental disease in rabbits

Dental disease is also common in rabbits, and happens when their front or back teeth overgrow.

Symptoms of dental disease in rabbits include reduced appetite, pooping less and in smaller amounts, dribbling, runny eyes, bumps on the face or jaw, sneezing, dandruff and ear problems.

The risk increases as they get older, so it's important to maintain good dental health throughout their life to help prevent it.

Dental disease can be prevented with the right diet. Unlimited, good-quality hay and grass should make up the majority of your rabbit's diet, alongside some fresh greens and a small amount of pellets.

Regular dental check-ups with a vet are a great opportunity to check your rabbit's dental health and detect signs of dental disease.

To learn more or book a dental check-up for your rabbit, please get in touch.