

AUTUMN & FLEAS

Most people think that fleas are only a problem during the summer months, & certainly throughout the warmer weather the flea population escalates but, unfortunately, by the time Autumn arrives, fleas have reached their peak! During the Autumn more owners are likely to find fleas on their pets than at any other time of year.

We recommend monthly application of Stronghold for cats and Advocate for dogs. Both products are effective flea control and are simply applied to the scruff of the neck. In addition both contain roundworm treatment. All adult dogs and cats should be treated regularly against this parasite, particularly if young children are present as the larval stage of roundworm can cause eye damage in humans.

We strongly recommend monthly treatment for dogs with Advocate as this product acts as protection against LUNGWORM. The lungworm parasite is carried by slugs and snails and dogs can become infected simply by rummaging through undergrowth, eating grass or drinking from puddles. Even a toy that has rolled through the grass can carry the infection. Younger dogs up to 2 years are more susceptible, however any breed at any age can be at risk.

Lungworm was previously only seen in isolated regions, however the parasite has now spread to most areas of the UK and is prevalent in the SOUTH WEST.

Be under no illusion – this parasite IS A KILLER.

Please speak to a member of staff at one of our clinics for further advice and information.



RABBIT HAEMORRHAGIC DISEASE (RHD)

WARNING TO ALL RABBIT OWNERS!

We have recently seen cases of RHD which is leading us to be concerned that this virus is flaring up again during the Autumn months.

Rabbit owners need to be aware that in practically all cases rabbits affected by RHD will die RAPIDLY - often without showing any signs, other than a short period of being off colour or lethargy.

Rabbits which survive longer often show signs of fever and convulsions – usually rapidly progressing into a coma within 12 – 36 hours. Often a bloody discharge from the nose may be seen before death occurs.

THE ONLY GUARANTEED WAY TO PROTECT RABBITS FROM THIS FATAL DISEASE IS BY VACCINATION

All breeds of rabbits, both pet and wild, can be affected. The virus is shed in the urine and droppings as well as respiratory secretions. This can be spread by either direct contact with another rabbit, by biting insects, clothing, hutches, water & feed bowls.

The incubation period of RHD is very short – only 1 to 3 days and most rabbits do not show any signs of disease before death.

At Fernlea we vaccinate rabbits with a single injection which gives 12 months protection against RHD and myxomatosis.

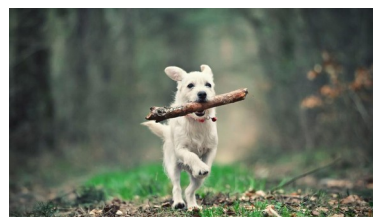
Please ask any of our staff for more information.



IT'S OFFICIALLY AUTUMN!

So, now, over the coming months its the ideal time for you and your dog to enjoy one anothers company and have some fun before the Winter sets in.

Going for longer, more interesting walks is one of the best ways to bond with your dog. Dogs love new smells of different locations and fresh air is good for humans too!
If you're feeling more adventurous, Autumn is the best time of the year to take your dog hiking. Just make sure you keep your dog under control and he/she is wearing a lead when walking through fields of livestock. Remember to take plenty of poo bags, water and snacks for breaks during the walk too.



PACK UP YOUR TENT AND TAKE YOUR DOG CAMPING!
Most camp sites are quieter now and most will happily welcome owners with dogs, so make the most of the last few days of milder weather – your dog will love you for it!

RE - KINDLE YOUR CHILDHOOD!
What better excuse but to rake up a some Autumn leaves and encourage your dog – or cat – to jump into the pile! Take some pictures and post them on our facebook page – www.fernleavets.co.uk - Your pet may even win a prize!



PLAY FOOTBALL OR FRISBEE....In fact involving your dog in just about any outdoor activity at this time of year will reap rewards!

AUTUMN TIPS

1) INVEST IN A REFLECTIVE COLLAR OR VEST FOR YOUR DOG (& YOURSELF!)

Now that the days are becoming shorter your dog is still going to look forward to walks & so it's inevitable that some of these are likely to be when the light is fading.

He or she still needs regular exercise – lack of exercise/mental stimulation is likely to lead to behavioural problems, especially in young or highly active breeds of dog.

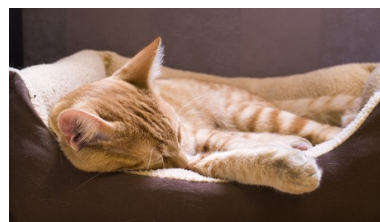
If you walk your dog in the dark it's worth considering a headlight torch which keeps you “hands free,” especially if you are walking more than one dog



2) KEEP YOUR CAT COSY.

Cats hate the cold! So, most will choose not to go outdoors during the colder months, especially if it's raining. With this in mind make sure you adjust their food intake accordingly to prevent excessive weight gain & accept that he/she is likely to prefer to stay indoors (with a litter tray) more.

Older cats in particular will appreciate staying indoors with a cosy bed, ideally one raised off the floor away from draughts.



3) APPLY REARGUARD TO RABBITS NOW!

(Rearguard gives 10 weeks of protection against blow fly strike) Make sure you check your rabbits back quarters at least once a day throughout the Autumn months & bathe if the area becomes soiled – Flies lay their eggs on dirty fur & the eggs rapidly hatch out into maggots. Clean out soiled bedding daily – Hanging a paper fly strip outside the hutch is also a good idea.

4) **PROTECT RABBIT & GUINEA PIG HUTCHES** during the colder weather by hanging a blanket over the front of the hutch & insulate the outside with cut offs of carpet – when it becomes really cold & frosty bring all hutches indoors into a garden shed. Rabbits & guinea pigs will appreciate extra hay during the colder months too & prevent water bottles from becoming icy by wrapping in bubble wrap.



5) TAKE CARE WITH ANTI FREEZE

Dogs and cats both love the sweet taste of anti – freeze which is potentially fatal if ingested. Make sure all containers are stored where pets cannot lick the bottle & mop up any spillages immediately & thoroughly.

FINALLY, ENJOY THIS BEAUTIFUL TIME OF THE YEAR WITH YOUR PET & MAKE THE MOST OF THE AUTUMNAL SUNSHINE BEFORE WINTER SETS IN!