

LUMPS & BUMPS



So there you are one day, grooming or hugging your pet and suddenly you find a lump or bump on their body. This can be a little scary for the owner, as you may tend to think the worst, but a lump does not always mean cancer. There are many reasons why these can appear, so let us take a look at just a few of the many types of lumps or swellings, which might develop on or under your pet's skin.

Lipomas are benign (non-cancerous) soft and moveable lumps of fatty tissue that form beneath the skin's surface. These vary in size, and generally surgery is not required, unless the lump is hindering the animal's movement or growing too large. It is advisable to have these lumps regularly checked, and as always any new ones that may appear.

Abscesses are common in cats as they do fight. Bites received can sometimes become infected causing large swellings, especially on the face, head and paws.

Sebaceous Cysts may form when a pore or hair follicle becomes blocked from dirt, hair or even sebum oil, which is produced by the sebaceous gland.

Skin Tags, Warts and Moles on the surface of the skin are fairly harmless, but any changes like spreading, bleeding or ulceration should be checked out.

Foreign Bodies such as grass seeds/awns or thorns, can become embedded to cause a swelling, especially in between toes and in the ears.

Allergies to fleas, food or the environment may produce a few small bumps or many covering the whole body.

Calluses are thickened areas of dry skin or bumps around bony areas like the elbows. These develop due to regular pressure on the skin, from sitting or lying down.

Stings and Bites from bees, wasps and insects also produce reactions in some dogs and cats.



Unfortunately, there are times when lumps are of a more serious nature. **Mammary tumours** can develop on female cats and dogs, however those that are neutered are at a lower risk from this condition arising.

Malignant (cancerous) tumours can form. These are usually hard and attached to surrounding tissue.

Regular Checks As with any condition, an early diagnosis means the quicker treatment can begin, which in turn may help increase the chances of a successful recovery. So it is a good idea to frequently inspect your pet, and if you do find something, do not delay in bringing them in for a check-up. Many lumps are relatively harmless and just require a 'watchful eye', while others will need treatment in some form. A healthy pet and peace of mind for you the owner are far better all round.

"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our life whole" (Roger Caras)

Penny Crawford our receptionist has recently undertaken a course to become a Pet Bereavement Counsellor and has these words to say about what she has learnt:

"The above quote in my opinion, explains why sometimes people need support or help when they lose a pet. How we go about giving this support is important because pets, however common their breed or however uninteresting they may seem to others, mean a great deal to their owners. This relationship is often an intricate one, based on more than just seeing to their basic needs and looking after them. People form an emotional attachment that often goes beyond that of their human counterparts. We often see our pets as an extension of our family group and in doing this, we suffer a real sense of loss and bereavement when they pass. Add to this the fact that sometimes we as owners need to make the decision to euthanise them, then the need for support becomes even more important. How and when we offer this support becomes crucial to the wellbeing of the bereaved pet owner/carer, as it can help to shape future events or consequences.

Sometimes advice or actions carried out with the best of intentions, if not properly planned or thought through, can have disastrous effects.

To offer this support we must look at ourselves and assess whether we have the necessary qualities that will help the person seeking support. I am hopeful that I have learnt the necessary skills to be able to offer our clients the help and understanding that they need when coming to terms with the loss of their pet."



01606 880 890



Our Summer Tour 2012

Hollybank Vets are out and about again this summer getting involved in all the local community events. Having just been at the Cuddington Gala, you can find us next at the **Blakemere Country Fair on 21st and 22nd July.**

A few months off yet, but do mark the date in your diary so you don't miss it!

The Hollybank Annual Practice Open Day Sunday 2nd September

As in previous years we will be raising money for



and this year we will also be supporting



There will be tours of the practice from our clinical staff and lots of fun outside including **DJ Danny, Bouncy Castle, Children's games, Little's Butchers BBQ, and much more!**

Please come and join us if you can. We would love to see you there!

Stop the car...I want to get out!

Some pets just love it, others hate it and for the latter, just a short car journey can be a nightmare for both animal and passengers alike! Travel sickness can cause anything from excessive drooling and panting to shivering and vomiting. It is usual for puppies and kittens to suffer 'motion' sickness on their first time in a moving vehicle, while for other cats and dogs it is just the actual journey experience that can cause stress or excitability, which results in travel troubles.

Cats can be particularly bad travellers with the problems starting before the journey does, as the carrier basket in their eyes is the enemy! So, get your cat to 'make friends' with the carrier. Place it in a happy, friendly, homely environment, with the door open and a cosy blanket

inside. Allow your cat free access to become familiar with the carrier. A happy, confident cat in a travel basket, and you are one step closer to a stress free journey!

Managing the Motion

Early introduction to the car is advisable. Allow your pet to sit in the stationary vehicle with you, while giving happy praise. Begin with short journeys to build

their confidence, and always ensure your pet is restrained for their safety, the driver and passengers. For some animals it may help to withhold food, whereas others could benefit from just a light meal a couple of hours before the journey. Carry an emergency clean up kit in your car for those times when rubber gloves, paper towel, bin liner, spare bedding and a bottle of water will all come in very handy! If your pet is sick, poos, wees or shows anxiousness do not scold them, remember you are aiming to build their confidence. In time your cat or dog may gradually get used to the car and young ones can grow out of it. However if the problem persists, **medication and calming pheromone sprays can sometimes assist**. Please do call us to discuss one suitable for your pet, or for further advice to help overcome the carsick blues.



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Parvovirus Warning

It has never before been so important to keep up to date with your dog's vaccinations. **We have seen three confirmed cases of parvovirus in the last 6 months** and several other suspected cases. Parvovirus is not just a disease that dogs can theoretically catch - we are seeing real cases, where sadly dogs are dying from parvovirus in this area. It is not just puppies that can catch this disease, as unvaccinated adult dogs are just as much at risk.

How does my dog catch Parvovirus?

Parvovirus is easily passed to other dogs by infected faeces and can survive in the environment for a long time, so there is no way of knowing if your dog is coming into contact with infected material.

What are the effects of this disease?

Parvovirus causes the lining of the intestines to slough off, resulting in haemorrhagic or bloody diarrhoea and vomiting. Most dogs are miserable, not wanting to eat or drink and can sometimes collapse.

Does my pet have Parvovirus?

To diagnose parvovirus a faecal swab is sent to the lab for analysis. The virus can be shed intermittently in the faeces, so a negative result does not necessarily mean the 'all clear', and sometimes we have to repeat the test.

How do you treat the virus?

With an anti-viral medication called Interferon. This is very effective against fighting the disease, around 80% chance of survival compared to 10% without this drug, however it is very expensive. Alongside the interferon it is vital to provide supportive treatment of fluids (a drip), intravenous antibiotics and gut protectants.

How can I protect my pet?

The only way to ensure protection is to vaccinate your dog once a year. We operate a two-month grace period on vaccines, so if your pet has not had a vaccine for more than 14 months, then they must restart the course in order to be fully protected. We give two injections, two weeks apart. One injection alone will not be enough to protect your pet against parvovirus and the other potentially fatal diseases we vaccinate against.

Prevention really is better than cure - so make sure your pets' vaccinations are up to date today, and call us at the surgery if you would like further information or have any worries regarding parvovirus or vaccination. **We are here to help.**

Don't Cook your Dog!

Dogs left in parked cars during summer can die in minutes from the intense heat and the advice is **do not leave your dog in a car for any length of time, even with the windows open.**

Remember any type of vehicle and also home conservatories, rapidly reach oven like temperatures during the summer! Heatstroke and dehydration in animals can be fatal. Signs of increased panting, excessive salivation, vomiting or lethargy, then call us immediately for advice.



dogstoday campaign

www.hollybankvets.co.uk



Hollybank
VETERINARY CENTRE

584 Chester Rd **Sandiway**
Cheshire CW8 2DX

Mon, Weds & Friday **8.30am - 6.30pm**

Tues & Thursday **9.30am - 7.30pm**

Saturday **9am - 12 noon**

Consultations by appointment only

24hr Emergency Service

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