

## Just the job!

With regular outbreaks of infectious diseases, the importance of routine vaccinations in dogs and cats can't be over-emphasised. After initial courses of injections for puppies and kittens, dogs and cats need regular booster vaccinations to maintain their immunity.

**Cats** are generally vaccinated against Cat Flu and Enteritis (diarrhoea) and the Feline Leukaemia Virus (which can cause cancer and weaken the immune system), all of which can otherwise be fatal.

**Dogs** can be protected against Parvovirus which causes bloody diarrhoea, as well as Leptospirosis, Hepatitis, and Distemper virus which can cause liver, kidney and neurological disease. All of these are potentially fatal. Protection against *Bordetella* (also known as Kennel Cough) is also often advisable – see lower right article. Other vaccines can be given in specific circumstances – for instance rabies vaccination is needed for pets travelling abroad with the Pet Travel Scheme.

**Leptospirosis** has been in the news recently and is a bacterial disease affecting many animal species, including dogs and occasionally humans. Carried by rats and other rodents, it survives in damp environments including still or slow moving water.

Dogs who enjoy swimming or playing in ponds and ditches are at particular risk.

Finally – the title to this article is a little misleading in that your booster visit is *so much more* than “just a job”! We will also give your pet a complete health check – allowing us to flag up any health issues before they become too much of a problem. Contact us for an appointment!



## Moy Vets charity dog walk

THIS YEARS' CHARITY DOG WALK will be on Sunday 14th June and will start from Moy Vets in Out Rawcliffe at 1pm. There will be two routes, a shorter walk through the lanes for people with elderly dogs or people wishing to take pushchairs and a longer route for the more energetic dogs who need a good gallop to let off steam!! The Longer walk will set off at 1pm and the shorter walk at 1.20pm so that we all meet back at Moy Farm at the same time for a much earned catch up, brew and slice of cake (or water and gravy bone for the four legged walkers).

You don't have to have a dog to come along if you just fancy a walk and a chat!!!

Last year we managed to raise £200.95 for our chosen charity The Brain Tumour Trust/Mark Lingard Fund and despite being a damp old day everyone and their furry friends had a great time. For more information check the Moy Vets website [www.moyvets.co.uk](http://www.moyvets.co.uk) or our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/MoyVets](http://www.facebook.com/MoyVets)

if you've already missed this event watch out for next years' on the links above



## Kennel Cough – is your dog vaccinated?



Kennel cough is a highly contagious infection of the upper respiratory tract of dogs and in fact, unlike its name, can be caught anywhere that dogs meet – out on walks, training classes, dog shows, and of course boarding kennels.

Dogs of all ages can be affected and signs include a harsh, dry, whooping-type cough. Whilst some dogs recover relatively rapidly, others may cough for weeks and some may get more serious complications such as pneumonia.

Prevention is much better than cure, because without vaccination, treatment of kennel cough can be a costly and lengthy process involving isolation and antibiotic therapy. Kennel cough is caused by a mixture of viruses and a bacterium – *Bordetella bronchiseptica*. We strongly recommend that dogs are vaccinated before staying in a boarding kennels and at other times when the disease is rife. Please contact us for more information or to book your booster.

**OFFER:**  
Yearly booster and Kennel Cough Vaccine done at the same appointment  
**£52.31**  
saving 30%



## The heat is on!

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 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.**

## Case history – Pheobe – diabetic



Pheobe (pictured) has just been diagnosed with Diabetes and with the careful care of her owner Deborah her condition is responding well.

Just like humans, our furry friends can suffer from diabetes.

Diagnosing diabetes is quite straight forward by urine sample and then blood tests, but it is important for you to be aware of, and look out, for some of the tell tale signs:

- Increased water intake
- Increased urination
- Always hungry
- Losing weight

If you are worried your pet is displaying any of these signs make an appointment for a health check with the Vet.

The underlying cause of diabetes often cannot be cured. Diabetic pets usually require lifelong treatment with an insulin preparation, diet and a healthy lifestyle.

Some diabetic cats no longer need insulin after a few weeks or months of treatment. This is known as clinical remission. With Deborah's continued hard work and care and with the Moy Vets team supporting we look forward to Pheobe having a healthy and happy lifestyle. Effective treatment of your pets' diabetes is very rewarding. You can help your pet regain its quality of life.

## 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!

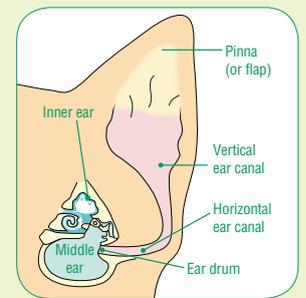
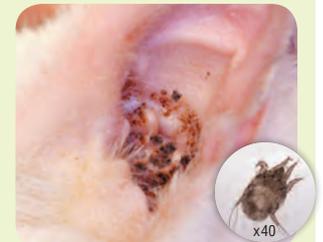


Diagram of the ear. Most problems occur in the vertical and horizontal ear canals



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**