

Small Talk

SUMMER 2021

Hafren Vets Small Animal Newsletter



Welcome to the Summer 2021 edition of our newsletter, bringing you seasonal and topical information and updates.

PRACTICE NEWS

Welcome back

Joedie - Joedie our head RVN has returned after maternity leave- she has been missed by staff, clients and their pets.

Congratulations and best wishes to Emma RVN (Llanidloes) and Andy who tied the knot after being delayed by Covid last year - a fantastic day was had by all.

New faces - welcome to our new vets that have joined the team we hope you will be very happy in the practice and wish you all every success.

KENNEL COUGH/ CONTAGIOUS COUGH

This Summer we have seen an outbreak of this disease across all our branches. Please see our factsheet for more information or contact the surgery. Vaccines are available to help protect against this disease.

MICROCHIPS

Having your pets microchipped is absolutely vital. Even the most loyal of

dogs and the most indoor of cats can go missing. As you are aware it is now compulsory to microchip dogs and soon this will also become a requirement for cats.. All puppies should be microchipped by the breeder before going to their new homes. It is a legal requirement for these microchips to be registered and its also vitally important that owners keep the information registered to these chips updated.

A microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and takes a few seconds to implant . Should your pet go missing and is found, veterinary practices, the police and welfare organisations all have special microchip scanners and will routinely scan stray pets looking for a microchip. So -

SUMMER FUN

We all love the summer weather - when it finally arrives. But how

prepared are we for helping our cuddly companions.

The sun can be a problem for white eared pets, especially cats which can be at risk of sunburn which may lead to cancer. The summer heat is also a huge problem for many pets and it is essential to provide free access to water and shade at all times. Grass awns from meadow grasses can cause problems in ears and feet. Parasites can cause problems too. There are the usual suspects - fleas and ticks, causing problems to our pets, our homes and even being capable of spreading diseases. For rabbits flystrike can be a really big problem in the warmer months when flies lay their eggs, which change into maggots and these can burrow into the

Kennel Cough/ Contagious Cough

- Kennel cough is an airway infection that causes a nasty cough in dogs. More severe cases can occasionally result in symptoms such as a high temperature or a reduced appetite.
- Call your vet for advice if you think your dog has kennel cough. .
- Dogs with kennel cough should be kept away from other dogs and public spaces (while they are showing symptoms and for two to three weeks afterwards), as this is where spread is most common.
- The best way to prevent kennel cough is to vaccinate against it, especially if your dog mixes with lots of other dogs or spends time in kennels.

Kennel Cough Alert



What is kennel cough?

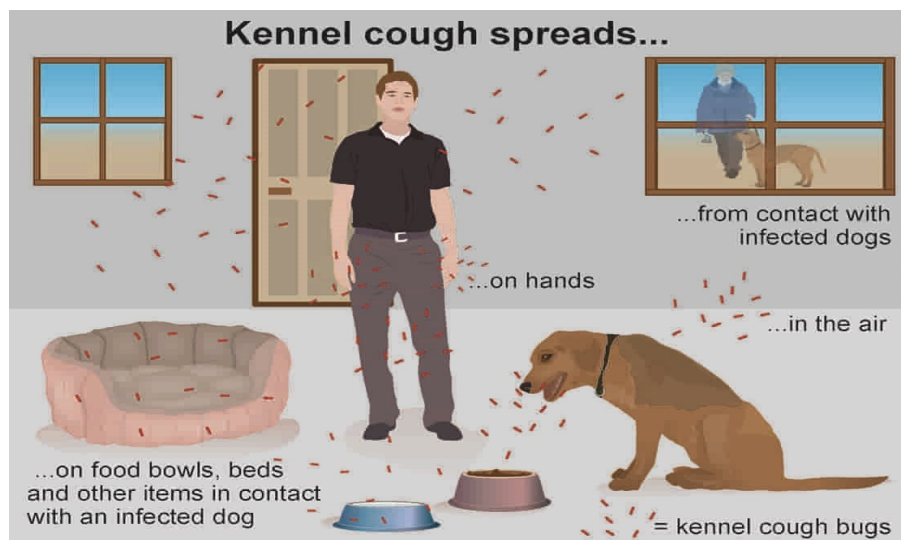
Kennel cough is an airway infection that causes a dry hacking cough in dogs. Similar to human colds, kennel cough can be caused by a number of different germs (viruses and bacteria). It's most common in areas where lots of different dogs gather (such as kennels, dog shows and doggy day care) and can survive in the environment for several weeks. Kennel cough spreads by direct contact between dogs, in the air and on surfaces (such as food bowls and leads). Dogs with kennel cough should be kept away from other dogs and public spaces while they are coughing, and for two to three weeks afterwards.

Coughing is the most common symptom of kennel cough, but in more severe cases, it can cause symptoms such as a high temperature or a reduced appetite.

Symptoms of kennel cough

Symptoms of kennel cough usually take 3-14 days to develop and then last for 1-3 weeks. Most dogs develop a hacking cough and stay otherwise quite well, but puppies, older dogs, and poorly dogs can develop more serious symptoms such as:

- A reduced appetite
- Low energy (lethargy)
- A high temperature (fever).



Contact the surgery.

There are many different conditions that can cause coughing so it's a good idea to have your dog checked if they have a severe cough or have been coughing for more than a few days. When visiting the surgery, make reception aware that your dog has been coughing and wait outside until you are called to prevent spreading kennel cough to other dogs in the waiting room. Your pet will be seen in the car park.