

Summer 2024 Small Animal Newsletter

Summer Allergies: Not Just a Human Problem

As temperatures rise, so do allergy issues—not just for humans, but for our furry family members too! Summer is a peak season for allergens like pollen, grasses, weeds, mould spores, parasites and even insect bites that can trigger uncomfortable allergic reactions in pets. While some pets may only show mild symptoms, others may experience significant discomfort so recognising the symptoms early is important.

Common Signs of Allergies in Pets

- Excessive scratching or licking
- Red, inflamed, or itchy skin
- Hair loss or hot spots
- Sneezing or coughing
- Watery eyes or runny nose
- Chewing on paws or tail base
- Ear infections or frequent head shaking

If so, allergies could be the cause.

Allergies can be very difficult and sometimes impossible to diagnose. Depending on the cause of the allergy it may present as a seasonal problem, i.e. when a specific pollen is in the air, or all year round, i.e. if it is an allergen in your pets food. If your pet is showing any suggestive symptoms and has a history of recurrent problems taking them for a consultation and skin examination is the best first step. Allergy tests are also available along with referral to specialist dermatologists for the most challenging cases.

Home Tips for Managing Allergies

- Wipe your pet's paws and coat after walks
- Vacuum regularly (helps to reduce house dust mites)
- Bathe your pet with vet-recommended shampoos hypoallergenic shampoo
- Keep their parasite treatment up to date
- Avoid walking them during peak pollen times (early morning & late afternoon)

Hafren Veterinary Group

Newtown

01686 625344

Llanidloes

01686 413475

Knighton

01547 528292

Cross Gates

01597 851500



Travelling with your pets

With the good Summer weather many of us will want to be taking our pets on holiday in the UK and possibly even abroad.

Car journeys

- Your pet must be suitably restrained when travelling to prevent distraction, this is required by law. This could be a seat belt harness, pet carrier or boot guard.
- Make sure to keep your car cool during long journeys and have frequent stops to enable your pet to go to the toilet and stretch their legs.
- Some pets may struggle with travelling, for example from motion sickness or anxiety. If this is the case, please book an appointment with us to discuss the best ways to manage this.

Travelling abroad

EU and Ireland (including Northern Ireland)

- A rabies vaccine needs to be given at least 22 days before travelling.
- Animal Health Certificate (AHC) - this needs to be completed and signed by an Official Veterinarian at most 10 days before travelling. Your pet will need to be examined and paperwork completed
- Worming treatment before re-entry to Great Britain - a wormer containing praziquantel must be given by a vet in the EU country that you are leaving at least 24 hours and at most 120 hours (5 days) before re-entry into GB and recorded on the AHC.
- For Northern Ireland, Ireland, Malta, Finland or Norway, a worming treatment must also be given by a vet 24-120 hours before entering the country and this must be recorded on the AHC.
- If you are travelling to a country where there are sandflies and/or mosquitoes we recommend your dog wears a Scalibor collar.

Non-EU

Travelling to countries outside the EU requires an Export Health Certificate. These are specific to each country and can have many different requirements. If you are planning to take your pet outside of the EU please let us know well in advance so that we can organise all the necessary requirements.

If you require any advice regarding pet travel either at home or abroad please contact the surgery

Hafren Veterinary Group

Newtown

01686 625344

Llanidloes

01686 413475

Knighton

01547 528292

Cross Gates

01597 851500

