



CHB VETS LTD

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Veterinary newsletter

December 2021

Vaccinations for the holiday season

Is your pet fully vaccinated? We vaccinate pets against a number of serious infectious diseases. A vaccination programme should be started when your pet is a baby and maintained throughout their life.

Vaccinations are also a requirement before your pet goes into boarding kennels. There is an increased risk of any contagious diseases being spread where there are a number of animals in close proximity.

Most kennel owners will ask that dogs have been vaccinated for kennel cough. This condition affects the upper respiratory tract of dogs and causes a harsh persistent cough which sometimes leads to lung problems and in rare cases, death. Kennel cough is transmitted through droplets in the air so will be passed between dogs in close proximity.



The kennel cough vaccine is not usually done as part of the routine vaccination protocol. We will discuss your pet's requirements when we see you.

Kennel cough vaccination must be done at least 3 days before going into the kennels.



If your pet has never been vaccinated, we would recommend they start the course of injections. This will be needed before they go on their holidays to the kennels.

You need to allow at least a month for a full course to be completed. If your cat or dog is going into kennels this summer, remember to allow enough time to ensure they are fully vaccinated and ready for their stay.

Don't let them worm their way in

Worms are common internal parasites in cats and dogs, but how much do you really know about them? Here we will bust some common myths, giving you the facts to understand the worms dogs and cats experience, the dangers they pose, and how to keep your pet and family protected.

First, let's meet the usual suspects and see the trouble they can cause.

Common Flea Tapeworm

Pets swallow infected fleas & it causes itchy bottoms in cats and dogs.



Roundworm

Vomiting. Diarrhoea. Coughing. Bloating stomach. Poor growth - mainly in puppies and kittens. Zoonotic.



Feline Lungworm

A wide spectrum of signs: symptomless or coughing, difficulty breathing & weight loss. Can be fatal for cats. Mostly outdoor kittens.



Whipworm

Dogs; embeds into large intestine. Bloody diarrhoea.



Hookworm

Mainly affects dogs. Heavy burdens = anaemia & diarrhoea. Footpad dermatitis. More common in kennelled dogs like Greyhounds. Zoonotic.



Sheep Measles Tapeworm

Dogs spread this on sheep pasture after eating raw sheep/goat meat. Causes damage to sheep meat.

What is Zoonotic?
Diseases spread between animals and people

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Ask your vet clinic for the best worming solution for your pet

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Treating for worms

You can choose from a range of worming products, including spot-on treatments, such as Advocate[®] or Profender[®] for cats and tablets such as Drontal[®], which kill intestinal worms in dogs and cats. Worm your adult pets at least every three months to control intestinal worms and help to prevent human infections.



	Administration	Frequency [†]		Min. Age/Weight
Drontal[®]	Oral	3 Monthly [†]	 	> 2 weeks (puppies) > 4 weeks (kittens)
advocate[®]	Topical	Monthly	 	> 7 weeks (puppies) > 9 weeks (kittens)
profender[®]	Topical	3 Monthly [‡]		> 8 weeks (kittens) Available in NZ for cats weighing over 2.5kg

[†] Frequency is a guide for adult pets only. Ask your vet clinic for a tailored solution to fit your pet's age and lifestyle, and always read the product insert before use.
[‡] With reference to cats and dogs over 6 months of age. [§] With reference to cats over 12 weeks of age.

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Preventing and treating Flystrike in sheep

Flystrike is a condition caused by blowflies laying their eggs on the sheep, which hatch out into maggots that then burrow their way into the skin, eating the skin as they go. This causes weepy sores that cause distress to the animal and also cause the dark areas of wool seen in flystruck sheep.

Blowflies prefer warm humid conditions, and with the forecast for a wetter summer, flystrike is something we need to be looking out for this year.

Signs of flystrike:

Signs are not seen until the maggots have hatched out and are starting to do their damage. Watch out for:

- Fidgety restless sheep, twitching their tail and stamping their feet
- Blackened fleece due to the discharging sores
- Wool falling out
- Sheep seeking shade, by itself away from the rest of the flock



Preventing flystrike:

Flystrike is a serious animal welfare issue and there are ways to prevent it.

- Shear your sheep twice yearly to keep the wool shorter
- Crutch sheep in between shearing to keep dags to a minimum
- Have a good animal health plan in place to reduce diarrhoea in sheep and dag build up. This will include parasite and nutritional management
- Treat sheep with insecticides that prevent flystrike establishment. We have products available in smaller containers that are suitable for small flock sizes



Treating flystrike:

If you catch flystrike early, it is easier to treat. You need to catch the affected sheep and cut all the wool off the area and surroundings to avoid missing any maggots. Apply flystrike dressing to the area to prevent re-strike. If the sheep is badly affected, it may need veterinary treatment and antibiotic cover.

For more info check out <https://beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/PDF/managing-flystrike.pdf>

Barley grass seeds and your dog—a painful combination

As the weather warms up during summer we see an increase in grass seed related problems. Barley grass is abundant this time of year and the effects on dogs lead to many emergency trips to the vet. The bristle-like fibres of these seeds make them stick to various surfaces. They cling to the fur of dogs and other animals.



Due to their shape, the seeds burrow into fur and skin where they might become lodged. They can get into any opening and work their way in through the skin, and are commonly found in ears, eyes and between toes. If a seed is not removed immediately, it can burrow deeper into the body travelling long distances and causing damage to tissues and organs on the way.



You can protect your pet by avoiding areas with tall seeding grass. Clipping long-haired dogs, especially between toes will aid in prevention. If your dog has been on a grassy adventure check their coat carefully, removing any seeds. Look especially behind the ears, around the head and eyes, in the 'armpits', groins and between the toes.

If you cannot remove a seed contact your veterinarian as soon as possible so it does not become more deeply buried and harder to take out.

Once seeds become buried it is often very difficult to find them. The entry point may or may not be visible, especially if it has migrated further in. Treatment can be very tricky at times often requiring an anaesthetic to explore an abscess and having to make several incisions in an attempt to find the seed. It may be that several surgeries are needed to sort the problem out.



HEALTH BENEFITS OF DESEXING PETS

FEMALE *Spaying*

- Reduces the risk of mammary tumours
- Eliminates the risk of tumours in the ovaries, uterus and cervix
- Prevents other medical conditions such as pyometra (*infection of the uterus*)

MALE *Neutering*

- Reduces the risk of prostatic diseases
- Reduces the risk of perianal tumours
- Eliminates the risk of testicular cancers

