



CHB VETS LTD

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Veterinary newsletter

December 2022

Summer, the season to be outside with your furry friend. Sadly, all that fur doesn't protect them from the Sun. These tips will help protect your dog or while still enjoying the sun.

Use a pet-friendly sunscreen

It's important to select a pet safe sunscreen. Human sunscreen contains ingredients like zinc oxide that can be toxic to dogs. Apply sunscreen to sensitive areas like the ears, nose and mouth, if your pet has thin-hair or pink skin. All dogs can suffer from sunburn, however take extra care if you own a pink-skinned or thin-haired breed such as a Dalmatian, Bull Terrier, Weimaraner or Greyhound.



Make sure your pet has access to water

Remember, the hotter it is, the more water your Pet needs to drink to keep cool. Bring your own supply of water when you venture out with your pet, so you won't have to rely on locations having water fountains or bowls.

Provide your Pet with shade

The best way to provide sun protection for your Pet is to provide them with shade. Limit their exposure to the sun by giving them breaks in the shade. Don't keep your dog outside in full sun. Check on them throughout the day when outside to ensure they're not overheating or getting burnt.

Never leave your pet in a parked car

Even on an overcast day, the car temperature can reach 30 degrees, which can be dangerous or even life-threatening. Never leave your pet unattended in a parked car for any time even if you have the windows partially open.

Consider using clothing for sun protection

Protective clothing like rash shirts cover large areas of Pet's bodies and give your pet UPF protection against the sun. Protective clothing is a great option for active short-coated breeds and they save you the worry that your pup will lick or wash any sunscreen off.

CHRISTMAS HOURS

SATURDAY DECEMBER 24TH OPEN 9:00AM - 12:00

SUNDAY DECEMBER 25TH - CLOSED

MONDAY DECEMBER 26TH - CLOSED

TUESDAY DECEMBER 27TH - CLOSED

WEDS DECEMBER 28TH - OPEN 8.00AM - 5.30PM

THURSDAY DECEMBER 29TH, FRI 30TH - OPEN 8:00AM - 5:30PM

SAT DECEMBER 31ST - OPEN 9:00AM - 12:00

SUNDAY JANUARY 1ST - CLOSED

MONDAY JANUARY 2ND - CLOSED

TUESDAY JANUARY 3RD - CLOSED

WEDS JANUARY 4TH - OPEN 8.00AM - 5.30PM



24 Hour

EMERGENCY

service available.

Phone: 06 858 6555

No questions asked: cancer is a 5-letter word no pet owner wants to hear. And as pets live longer, diseases that come along with aging, like cancer, can occur. Pets risk developing different types of cancer, just as humans do, and it is commonly seen in cats and dogs. Certain breeds of dogs have a higher risk of developing cancer at a young age, but most often, cancer is diagnosed in middle-aged and senior pets.

Over 100 types of cancers affect our animal companions. Some types of cancers diagnosed in pets are the same as those in humans, including mammary gland cancer and lymphoma; lymphoma is the most common cancer diagnosed in cats.

Some common types of cancers diagnosed in companion pets are:

- Blood and lymphatic cancers (lymphoma and leukaemia)
- Skin cancer
- Mammary gland (breast) tumours (in unspayed females)
- Mast cell tumours
- Bone cancers
- Oral cancers
- Abdominal organ cancer (e.g., spleen, liver)



The cause of many pet cancers is unknown, making prevention difficult; however, certain cancers can be prevented. Taking the following steps can reduce the incidence of certain cancers:

- Spaying reduces the risk of mammary gland and uterine cancer in female cats, dogs, rabbits, and other small mammals.
- Neutering eliminates the risk of testicular cancer in cats, dogs, rabbits, and other small mammals.
- Keeping your pet out of the sun, especially between 10 am and 4 pm, reduces the risk of some forms of skin cancer.
- Avoid smoking inside—secondhand smoke can cause cancer in pets, too.

Early detection and treatment are the best ways to increase the life expectancy of a pet with cancer. The warning signs of cancer in pets are similar to those in humans. Sometimes there are no obvious signs, so whenever your pet appears unwell or something is unusual, check with your veterinarian. Some warning signs to look for include the following:

- Lumps, bumps, or discoloured skin
- Wounds that do not heal
- Enlarged lymph nodes
- Unexplained lameness or swelling of joints and bones
- Bleeding from the mouth, nose, or any other opening
- Difficulty eating
- Persistent diarrhoea or vomiting
- Unexplained weight loss



Many of the above signs can be seen with conditions unrelated to cancer but still need prompt attention. If any of the above signs are observed in your pet, see your veterinarian for a diagnosis and treatment plan. Annual or bi-annual routine health checks can help your veterinarian detect subtle signs before you notice them. For small mammals and birds, routine health checks twice yearly are especially important!

Although frightening, a cancer diagnosis does not necessarily mean your pet won't survive. In many cases, pets can be treated successfully, especially if caught early. The goal of treatment is to slow the growth or eliminate it entirely while still giving your pet a good quality of life. Cancer treatments for pets don't have the same degree of side effects as those for humans, so don't let the word "chemotherapy" scare you.

Take your pet to your veterinarian for regular wellness checks. Get into the habit of checking your pet over at home between check-ups – this way, you know what is normal for your pet, allowing you to seek veterinary care sooner if you notice something unusual.

Holidays

Summer holidays are almost here! The big question is, are you prepared to travel with your pet this summer? Some holidays are well-suited to include your furry friend, but it's important to keep a few things in mind when preparing to travel with a pet, so your trip is memorable...in a *good* way! Here are a few tips to consider before you set out on your summer road trip:

- **Use a pet restraint device** or keep your pet in a crate while traveling.
- **Always leash your pet BEFORE** you stop for an exercise break. Your pet may dash out of your car as soon as the door opens.
- **Make frequent exercise breaks.** Dogs need to take regular walks on road trips. Stopping at busy gas stations is not ideal, so try to plan your stops at rest areas or parks where your dog can be leash-walked to stretch his legs and go to the bathroom. Build extra time into your schedule for these stops.
- If traveling with a cat, **keep a small litter box in the pet carrier.** Scoop the litterbox frequently to keep everyone happy.
- **Make sure your pet is adequately identified** in case you become separated from him. Micro-chipping is a permanent way for your pet to be identified, but it's also a good idea to have an ID tag attached to his collar which includes your cell phone number. Be sure that the contact information associated with the microchip is up to date.
- **Bring enough food and water for the entire trip.** Changes in diet often lead to gastrointestinal upset and an upset stomach is not fun for anyone. Taking an ample water supply for your pet avoids any problems with local water supplies.
- **Be sure to bring your pet's routine medication(s),** including flea, tick, and worm preventives. Check with your veterinarian about any parasites in your destination area. Ticks may not be of concern in your hometown, but your destination may be a different story. Your veterinarian can advise you of any preventives you may need.
- **If your pet is prone to car sickness or stress-induced diarrhoea,** speak to your veterinarian ahead of time for recommendations. Your veterinarian can give you tips or prescribe medication that can help.
- **Try feeding smaller, more frequent meals** instead of large meals right before hitting the road.
- If you plan on long hikes with your dog, **build up his stamina** before you head out on holidays. Be sure to bring along a collapsible water dish, or other water dispensers, and make sure you pack plenty of water for both you and your dog. Stop frequently for water breaks. If hiking in the mountains, provide water breaks every 20-30 minutes. It's easy to become dehydrated in higher elevations. Make sure your pet is comfortable drinking from these water dispensers before you head out on your hike.
- **Take time for rest.** Holidays can be hectic, so schedule some "down time" for you and your pet.
- Finally, **consider if taking your pet with you is the best idea.** Sometimes the reality of holidaying with your pet is much different than what you had envisioned. If you decide to leave your pet behind, rest assured, he will enjoy his own "holiday" at a boarding kennel or staying with a pet sitter.

With a little planning and preparation, you can make great memories while holidaying with your pets this summer!



Do Dogs' Personalities Change With Age?

Curious puppies! When you think of a puppy, you may think of a cute little pup playing with the newly discovered doorstep or barking at himself in the mirror. Or a curious pup peaking around the corner, ready to pounce on unsuspecting toes as they approach. Or maybe a tiny soft snout is rooting into your hand when it smells something more interesting than the toy he was chewing on. You only need to scroll social media for a few minutes to laugh at the seemingly endless videos of curious puppies getting into mischief!

Of course, our pets don't act entirely the same in their senior years as they do when they are youngsters. But when does their personality begin to change? When do puppies begin to lose their curiosity? Or do they lose it altogether?



Recent research shows that a dog's personality does indeed change as he ages, especially his attraction to novel experiences, the desire to explore, and the urge to run around (think puppy zoomies – they certainly don't happen as often with senior dogs as they do with puppies). However, as with humans, the study noted that a dog's personality is stable and impressionable, meaning that if your dog was super active and curious as a puppy, he would remain active and curious as he ages. But suppose your dog was more of a lap dog, even as a puppy, and

couldn't be bothered with those silly bouncy puppy games. In that case, he'll be even less interested in novel experiences and **more** interested in hanging out on your lap as he ages!

In simple terms, while every dog will become less active and less curious as he ages, it is relevant to their history. You may have noticed this yourself—have you ever met a 12-year-old dog that you could have sworn was a puppy? You can bet that this senior dog was even more curious and active when he was young.

This study's findings also showed that dogs maintained their desire to socialise and tolerate frustration as they aged. A dog's attentiveness and problem-solving ability improved up to about six years of age and remained stable as the dog grew older.

As one might expect, the researchers found that their curiosity about novel objects and situations starts to decline when dogs reach about three years of age. That's the age when most dogs begin to "mellow" out. If you have a puppy that is so active, you wonder when (or if) it will ever slow down; fear not, given some time, your furry friend will become less active soon enough!

However, it is important to note that personality and behaviour are very different. If your older dog's personality seems to change because he is exhibiting different behaviour (e.g., growling more often, spending more time alone, doesn't enjoy his favourite toys or games), it could be a sign that he's feeling unwell or is experiencing chronic pain. If you notice changes in your dog's behaviour, it's a good idea to have your veterinarian examine him to look for the cause and help him feel like his old self again.

