

Summer's here!

How to avoid Ticked off pets and Hot Dogs

We've got great summer weather, holidays to look forward to and for time outdoors with our pets, we have prepared some seasonal advice:



Prevent your pet being Ticked off

Ticks are tiny parasites, just 2mm long and often reddish brown or black. They feed mainly on wildlife and livestock, but annoyingly they may also **attach themselves to any dog or cat passing through long grass** (or to us humans!)

Apart from being unpleasant, ticks carry a range of potentially serious diseases.

It is **very difficult to see them in the coat**, although after feeding they expand by as much as 1 cm so you may now find their grey, swollen and unwelcome presence in your pet's fur, firmly attached to the skin.

Apart from being unpleasant, ticks carry a range of potentially serious diseases. So if you spot one on your pet, **it's important to get the tick removed as soon as possible**, in the correct manner.

Don't use your fingers to twist or pull the tick off, as that can do more harm than good. There are only two ways to safely remove a tick: using either fine-tipped tweezers to carefully grip the mouthparts and avoid squeezing the tick's body, or with a special tick-removing tool. **We stock 'Tick Hooks' for purchase at Barton Lodge reception.** Your pet may react to your attempts at removal, even if done carefully. We are very happy to remove ticks for you, especially if you or your pet find the whole thing too much! **If your pet's skin remains sore around the area the tick was attached, we advise an appointment in case treatment may be needed.**

Ask our friendly team for advice on what will work best as parasite control for your pet's summer lifestyle and holiday plans.

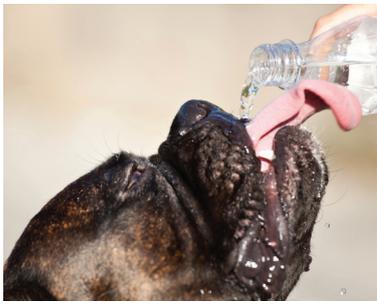
Ticks and flea risks are high during summer. We have some really effective treatments for your dog against ticks, fleas and worms that come in a combined chewy tablet treatment that many dogs love to eat. For cat's we recommend highly effective spot-on products that work well against all these parasites.



Keeping track of your pet and their Microchip

Don't forget to keep your pet's details updated, especially if you move and/or change your contact details.

Microchipping has been compulsory for dogs since April 2016 but sadly, even if your pet is chipped, a lost pet can only be reunited with their owner if the contact details remain correct on the database.



Avoid Summer Hazards and Hot Dogs

It's a pretty hot summer so remember to avoid the mid-day heat when walking older dogs and short-nosed breeds such as Boxers, Bulldogs, Pugs and Bull terriers, as they are at much more risk of heat distress.

If you witness a severely distressed dog in a vehicle, the advice of the RSPCA is to call 999.

For dogs shut in vehicles, even for a short while on a hot day, **life threatening heat distress can develop very quickly when the interior temperature soars.**

If you witness a severely distressed dog in a vehicle, the advice of the RSPCA is to **call 999.** It's a **genuine emergency** and for any dog left in a vehicle, 'not long' may become 'too long'.

Protect the barbeque from your pets' attention.

The barbeque food we enjoy could turn into a **hazard to dogs and cats**, so it's important to keep the following in mind:

Keep kebab skewers, cooked meat with bones, other hot food and utensils well out of their reach.

Even vegetarian items such as onions can be poisonous to pets and pieces of **corn on the cob are not digested** when swallowed so **lead to life-threatening bowel blockages.** We've operated successfully on numerous dogs to remove a piece of corn cob that has lodged in the intestines.

If you suspect that your pet has eaten any inappropriate foodstuffs, or indeed anything else out of the ordinary, please do give us a call on 01442 216048 and we can advise further.

In other Barton Lodge News...

After 3 years working with us, we sadly say goodbye to vet Mark Sutton.

Mark is moving back to his home county of Gloucestershire at the end of July, where he will continue his veterinary career.

We are sure all clients will join us in wishing Mark good luck for the future.



We are delighted to be welcoming vet Pedro-Martin Bartolome.

He is an experienced surgeon who has worked in Hertfordshire for the past 20 years.

Pedro joins us as a Clinical Director in August, and he is really looking forward to meeting the clients at Barton Lodge.



On July 10th we changed to an upgraded practice computer system which will allow us to give better customer service to our clients.

During our intensive training period in July, we apologise if we are a little less efficient in serving our clients' needs whilst the system gets established and we get trained up. The benefits from the new system will soon become apparent.

If you have any concerns during these changes please call to discuss them with our office team, Caroline and Hester.

Don't forget you can keep regularly updated with what's happening at Barton Lodge Veterinary Centre by joining us our Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/Barton.Lodge.Vet.Centre



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Opening Hours

Mon - Fri 8am-7pm

Sat 8am - 5pm

24hr Emergency Service

