



Active VetCare

Veterinary Group

Dunshaughlin • Dunboyne • Phibsboro
www.activevetcare.ie

AUTUMN 2005

NEWS

Active Vetcare Veterinary Clinic

The Poodle Parlour
87 New Cabra Road
Phibsboro
Dublin 7

Tel: 01 8680119

Consulting Hours:

Monday – Friday:

9.00 – 10.00, 12.30 – 2.00
5.30 – 7.00

Sat, Sun & Bank Holidays:

12.00 – 1.00

Dunshaughlin Veterinary Hospital

Main Street
Dunshaughlin
Co. Meath

Tel: 01 8259636

Consulting Hours:

Monday – Friday:

10.30 – 11.30, 6.00 – 7.30

Saturday:

10.00 – 11.00, 3.30 – 4.30

Tolka Veterinary Centre

1 Avondale Terrace
Dunboyne
Co. Meath

Tel: 01 8251125

Opening hours:

Mon – Fri: 9.00 – 7.00

Saturday: 9.00 – 1.00

Consultation by
appointment only

Full Surgical &
Medical Facilities.

Boarding &
Grooming Available.

24h Emergency Service

Boarding Your Pet?

We have now moved to our new state of the art, purpose-built boarding facility, based outside Dunboyne. It is situated on 200 acres of green fields, providing a peaceful but active holiday.

This facility is been designed so that your pet will be under our constant care and attention, while being able to enjoy the country parkland surroundings. Features and benefits to you and your pet include:

- Constant Veterinary Supervision. While with us, your pet is monitored by a vet-

erinary surgeon twice daily, allowing you complete peace of mind while you are away. Pets on medication for arthritis, Heart problems and diabetes are also catered for.

- Individual living areas are all indoors for each guest. Each area consists of a comfortable yet spacious house, which are individually heated, adjoined to which is their own 15ft exercise run. This allows your pet to exercise at all times in a warm comfortable environment when not being exposed to unfavourable weather conditions.
- All dogs are exercised extensively through out their stay. This takes the form of different and varied routes throughout the farmland and wooded area. Your pet also has the added comfort of a covered outdoor play arena



where they can play ball, fetch and socialise while being protected from poor weather.

- Each individual pets needs are taken into account. Some like to play with other dogs, others like individual walks on their own. Different dogs have different dietary requirements, tastes and likes. These factors are all taken into account when your pet is being admitted and helps us to provide a more pleasurable experience for your pet.

We look forward to see your pet for their holidays



Photos: Jane Burton.

Feline Leukaemia Virus – is your cat vaccinated?

IT'S a sad fact that Feline Leukaemia virus (FeLV) is now one of the commonest causes of premature death in cats.

Whilst the virus does on occasions cause true leukaemia, in many cases the effects are more related to suppression of the cats immune system, sadly leaving it fatally exposed to infections that a healthy cat would normally recover from. The virus is found in the saliva of infected cats and is mainly transmitted by licking or biting.

However the good news is that there are very effective vaccines against the virus, and your cat can be vaccinated at the same time as the annual health check and other vaccinations. Don't take the risk – please contact us for further information or an appointment!



"I can relax – I am!"

Cartoon: Gareth Davies



'Health insurance for your Pet, Reassurance for you'

Keeping pet rabbits fit and well – some tips!



IT'S not just dogs and cats that need regular check-ups and vaccinations! Rabbits are also susceptible to two potentially deadly diseases:-

Myxomatosis is a distressing viral disease spread by rabbit fleas and other blood sucking insects. Swollen eyes are usually the first symptoms, rapidly progressing to blindness. Affected rabbits become very ill and most will die as a result.

Viral Haemorrhagic Disease (VHD) is a very infectious disease that spreads easily between rabbits, or via contaminated hutches, bedding or food. It can also be inadvertently transported by people or birds. Affected rabbits show a range of symptoms including loss of appetite, lethargy and nose bleeds. Sadly most will die.

Please contact us for further information on vaccinating your rabbit against infectious disease, or any other aspect of rabbit care including **dental care** and **neutering**.



Autumn alarm!

underside of the abdomen. Like fleas, the mites can cause intense itchiness in susceptible individuals at this time of year, with itchy crusty lesions developing on affected areas. Please contact us for more details.

WITH the onset of cooler autumn weather, we look at some of the issues facing our pets at this time of year.

Although the temperature is dropping and the nights are drawing in, it is important to remember to continue **anti-parasite treatments** to prevent disease associated with **fleas**. These tiny wingless insects are a major cause of irritation to both pets and their owners and, with our centrally heated homes, are a year round menace!



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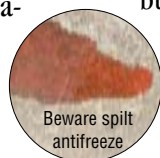
Harvest mites are another problem seen in the late summer and autumn. The mites are picked up in long grass and tend to congregate on the ears, eyelids, feet and



Harvest mite (x40)

Now is also the time to remember to keep pets indoors in the evenings to avoid **firework** injuries. Dogs with **noise phobias** may benefit from medication to help relieve anxiety associated with fireworks; habituation to loud noises over a long period of time can also be helpful. Please ask us for an appointment to discuss this further.

This is also the time of year that many car owners prepare for winter. **Antifreeze** (used in car radiators) is a very palatable poison. If ingested, even small amounts



Beware spilt antifreeze

Fleas: what to look out for!



One of the commonest signs of fleas is finding specks of flea "dirt" (flea faeces) in the coat.

can cause serious kidney failure and usually death.

The autumn is also the time for **tortoise** owners to ensure that their pets are adequately prepared for hibernation. Please come and see us for a pre-hibernation check-up!

And finally... don't forget that old dogs and cats tend to feel their **joints** more in the cold weather – make sure they have plenty of warm bedding, but ensure they don't snuggle up too close to the radiator or burns can result. Keep an eye on their mobility and contact us for an appointment if they are getting stiff and sore.

An eerie tale! Ear Disease: is your pet affected?



DID you know that ear disease is a fairly common problem, affecting pets of all ages? Whilst the ear is a very complex structure, most of the ear problems seen in pets involve disease of the *external* ear canal. Disease of this area is called **otitis externa** (also termed *canker*). Symptoms, which can be gradual or sudden in onset, include head shaking, ear rubbing, reddening of the skin lining the external ear canal, and frequently a discharge (as seen in the case below).



Otitis externa in a cat with ear mites. Note the characteristic crusty brown discharge.

There are several underlying causes of otitis externa.

These include **ear mites, trapped foreign bodies** (such as grass awns) and **localised inflammation** of the skin lining the ear canals. Worse still, the condition is often complicated by opportunistic bacterial and fungal infections.

Early diagnosis and treatment gives us the best chance of curing this often painful condition. So if your pet is showing *any* signs of ear disease, please bring them in for a thorough examination.



Microscopic view of an ear mite (x40) (*Otodectes cynotis*)