



Active VetCare

Veterinary Group

Dunshaughlin • Dunboyne • Phibsboro
www.activevetcare.ie

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



Insurance – don't take the risk!

of treatment to be made on the basis of *need* rather than simply based on cost.

We naturally tend to think of traumatic surgical events – such as accidents involving broken bones – as the main reason for pet insurance. However, in addition, many *medical* conditions, such as arthritis, diabetes and deep seated skin or ear infections, (to name just a few!), can often be equally costly to treat in the longer term.



Fractured femur in a cat following a road traffic accident

THINKING about insuring your pet? We'd like to encourage you to do so!

Pet health problems always seem to occur when there's no spare money in the bank. With the cost of diagnosis and treatment of some conditions running into many hundreds of pounds, pet insurance gives you **peace of mind**, allowing decisions regarding the best course



Photos: Jane Burton

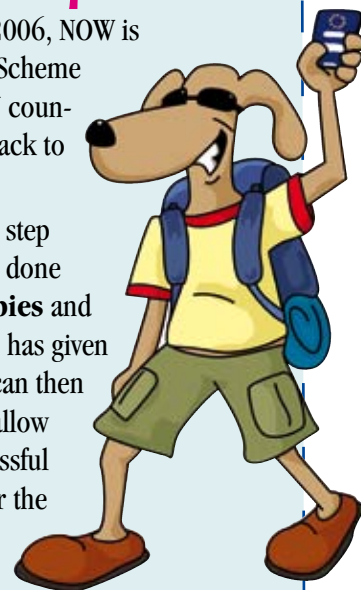
With appropriate insurance we can hopefully ensure that our pets get the best of care without cost becoming a limiting factor.

Each year, on average one pet in three will require veterinary treatment for illness or accidents. Don't take the risk – make sure your pet is insured!

Holiday time – are you prepared?

IF YOU are planning to take your pet abroad in Summer 2006, NOW is the time to start planning your trip! Under the Pet Travel Scheme owners can travel with their pet dogs and cats to other EU countries and certain non-EU countries and then bring them back to Ireland without having to spend time in quarantine.

So what do you need to do in order to qualify? The first step is to have your pet **microchipped** (if you haven't already done so!). Following this they must be **vaccinated against rabies** and subsequently **blood tested** to make sure that the vaccine has given them a satisfactory level of protection against rabies. We can then issue you with a **Pet Passport**. You additionally need to allow six calendar months to elapse (from the date of the successful blood sample) before your pet can re-enter Ireland under the scheme. That's why you need to start now! Please contact us for further information or advice.



Cartoon: Gareth Davies



www.metacam.co.uk

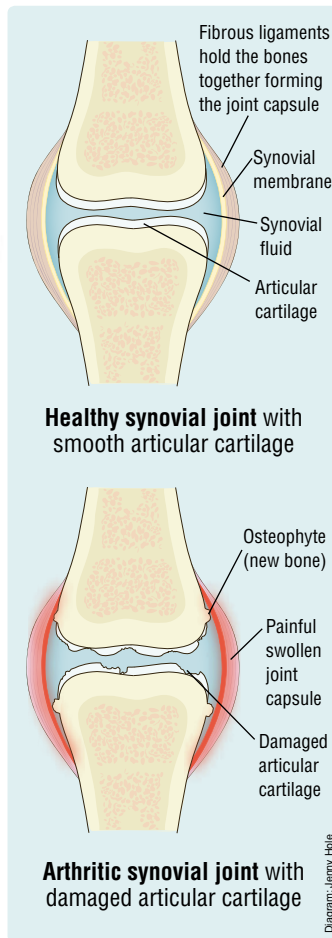
Metacam, your number one choice for arthritis treatment in pets

Arthritis alert: is your pet affected?



DID you know that arthritis is a relatively common problem – particularly affecting older pets?

The joints permitting free limb movement are called synovial joints. A healthy joint has a smooth layer of articular cartilage covering the bones and is lubricated by synovial fluid produced by the synovial membrane. In the majority of cases, arthritis is the result of wear and tear damage to joints. It can also occur secondary to joint injuries or due to malformation of a joint – for example hip dysplasia. Arthritic joints typically show progressive breakdown and thinning of the articular cartilage (see



lower diagram), formation of new bone (called osteophytes), and thickening of the joint capsule. Arthritic joints are usually stiff, swollen and painful. Common signs of arthritis

include: difficulty in rising after rest, a reluctance to jump onto chairs and beds, and (for dogs) sometimes a reluctance to go for walks. For many pets, the onset of colder damper winter weather greatly worsens the pain of arthritic joints. If you are concerned that your pet is showing signs of stiffness and joint pain please arrange for us to examine your pet. If we find signs of arthritis, managing your pet's **diet** and **weight**, together with a suitable level of **exercise** and modern **medications** can make a huge difference to their mobility and quality of life. With a wide range of treatment options available, we can choose the best ones for your pet.



Photos: Jane Burton



Winter worries! AS THE days are drawing in and becoming colder we turn our attention to some seasonal tips. Remember that whilst many dogs just love playing in the cold and snow, **slim fine coated breeds** will find it much harder to conserve their body heat. Also beware of winter hazards such as **frozen ponds** and lakes. Inside the house, don't forget that Christmas decorations such as **ribbons** and **tinsel** are often attractive to kittens and puppies, and if swallowed may lead to an intestinal blockage.

Chocolate - especially the plain varieties, can be very toxic to dogs. Specially formulated pet chocolate is the safer (but still fattening!) option for chocoholics feeling sorry for their pets!



Winter is also a difficult time for all animals that live outside, especially **pet rabbits** and **guinea pigs**. It is important



to ensure that their hutches are warm, dry and clean, and in a sheltered position. Bedding needs to be plentiful and changed daily. Give them fresh food and water every day and check the water bottle regularly to ensure that it has not become frozen.



Don't get fazed by fleas!

WE traditionally tend to think of the warmer Summer months as the "flea season". However with modern central heating, (which fleas love!), fleas are in reality a year-round problem!

If your pet was unfortunate enough to attract a few unwelcome "guests" last Summer, you will hopefully have the situation well under control and may be tempted to stop treatment.

However, take a look at the picture below left – this is of a female flea laying an egg. Adult female fleas can lay in excess of 50 eggs per day – thus a brief infestation can result in thousands of flea eggs being produced! These fall off your pet and are deposited around the house in carpets and bedding, where they can lie dormant for **many months** and sometimes longer, before developing (via larval stages) into adult fleas.

Thus for optimum flea control – and peace of mind – treatment should ideally be **all year round!** We are happy to advise you on the most suitable form of flea control for your **pet and your home!**



Female flea laying an egg (x7 magnification)

Flea photo: Jane Burton. Cartoon: Gareth Davies. Dog in snow: Myra Brown.