

Summer Newsletter 2026



Heat Stroke

Heat stroke can lead to life threatening complications and even death.

Heat stroke can occur when an animal is exposed to hot/humid conditions (including being left in a car), is exercising in hot conditions, is housed in direct sunlight with inadequate shade and/or has inadequate drinking water.

Pets control their temperature by moving to a cooler area and by panting, dogs with compromised breathing including brachycephalic breeds (Pugs, French Bulldogs, English Bulldogs, Boston Terriers, Boxers) as well as older patients with cardiac and respiratory issues are at increased risk of heat stroke.

Symptoms:

- Excessive panting / breathing difficulty, excessive drooling, agitation, restlessness, lethargy/drowsiness, becoming unsteady on legs, vomiting, diarrhoea, collapse, death can occur.
- Treatment: Cool the patient with fans and cool water. Contact your vet immediately, your pet may need to be admitted to the surgery for fluids, oxygen therapy and intensive care.
- Prevention: Exercise your pet during cooler times of the day, early morning or late evening. Ensure they have an ability to move into a cool shaded area, with good ventilation and with access to plenty of water. Some hairier pets may benefit from having their coat shaved. Put fans in locations which benefit your pets.

NEVER LEAVE A PET IN A HOT CAR.

Fly Strike

Fly Strike Flystrike is a life threatening condition which, in small animal practice, is most commonly seen in rabbits but can affect other species.

When a pet is soiled around their back end or has a wound flies are attracted to the smelly moist environment where they deposit their eggs. When the eggs hatch into maggots the maggots damage the tissue. Flystruck animals can develop toxic shock.

- Symptoms: Dull, depressed, anorexic rabbit, irritated around their back end, moist and malodourous, maggots and or blood may be recognised.
- Treatment: Seek veterinary attention immediately. Manual removal of the maggots, supportive therapy with antibiotics and analgesia +/- fluids are likely to be administered. Appropriate parasiticides will be administered. Sadly some patients are too severely affected and may have to be put to sleep.
- Prevention: Keep hutch regularly cleaned (clean toileting areas at least once a day, whole hutch at least once a week); avoid overfeeding your rabbit as flystrike is more common in obese animals; check your rabbits back end daily, twice a day during spring and summer. For rabbits prone to being mucky around the back-end fly repellent products such as Rearguard™ can be used.



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