



Spring 2018

Spring is finally upon us, the daffodils are out, and the days are longer – with the change of season, now is the time to think about your pet’s needs. This means taking stock of when your pet was last flea treated and wormed, and whether they are up-to-date with their vaccinations. This is also the time that spring allergies can rear their ugly head – don’t ignore continual itching as the longer you leave it, the bigger the problem can become. All these subjects and more are covered in this edition of Paws and More and remember our team of Vets and Vet Nurses are always there to help!

Also have a read of the article on the new Animal Welfare Regulations that come into force on the 1st of October. These are designed to further protect the health and safety of animals; in this article we have summarised the key points with regard to companion animals.

Happy reading and happy spring!

Will my itchy pet be alright if I just leave it?

By Anne Gelling, Veterinarian, Anexa FVC Te Aroha

No, is the short and sharp answer.

When your pet develops an itch, the problem can soon enter a vicious cycle. Your pet’s nails and mouth are often not very clean, and therefore itching can damage the skin and allow bacteria to cause an infection in the skin. This causes another problem on top of the original cause of the itch (fleas, mites, allergies).

The longer you leave your pet scratching and injuring it’s skin, the worse the infection can get. It will soon reach a stage where we need to use medication to stop this cycle, while we work to find the original cause of the itch and deal with that.

As the world is dealing with the emergence of multi-resistant bacteria (think MRSA for example), it is our duty to protect the antibiotics that we have got and we need your help to do so; the less antibiotics we need to use in your pet the better.

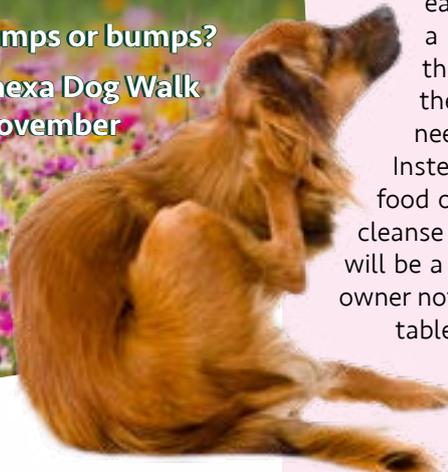
If you bring your itchy pet in earlier rather than later, we have a much better chance to break the cycle by finding and removing the cause of the problem without needing to use antibiotics.

Instead, we can use a change of food or a simple medicated wash to cleanse and soothe the skin. The result will be a happy itch-free pet, you as an owner not having to deal with (as many) tablets and we as your Vet relieved to be able to do our bit in protecting World Health through appropriate antibiotic stewardship.

Spring Health Checklist

- ✓ Flea worm treatment up to date?
- ✓ Right petfood for their age and stage?
 - ✓ Vaccinations booked?
 - ✓ Post-winter groom booked?
- ✓ Body check- any lumps or bumps?
- ✓ Save the date - Anexa Dog Walk Sunday 18th November

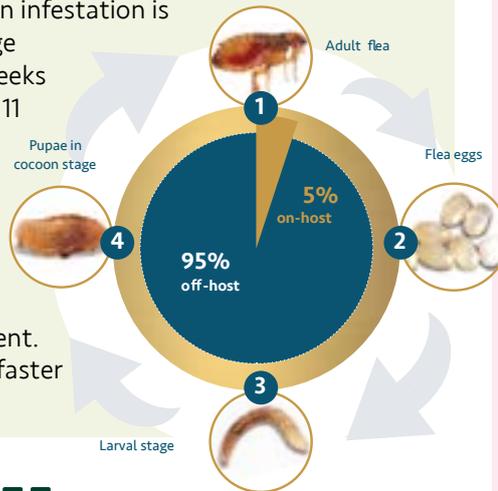
Have you joined our flea treatment reminder service? Ask about it next time you pick up your flea treatment.



Protect ALL of your pets against fleas

Cats and dogs share the same flea species. Even if your dog never goes near the cat in your house, forgetting to treat the cat can mean flea eggs are shed around the house, which develop into adult fleas that jump onto the dog! Dogs are great at scratching, itching and nibbling until you really know they have fleas, whereas cats may subtly groom in private, licking away fleas rather than scratching. So you may not think that your cat even gets fleas, but actually they are often just better at hiding the problem than the dog! An easy way to check is to use a flea comb regularly to look for fleas and flea dirt. Flea dirt appears as small dark particles which can be confused for soil. If you wet this dirt on a damp wet white paper towel, and it turns brownish red then it will be flea dirt... as it's actually digested blood.

Protect your pets with a trusted flea treatment ALL year round - that means no breaks over winter. In the New Zealand climate fleas really are a year round problem. Preventing an infestation is easier than treating one. On average New Zealanders are only using 8 weeks of flea treatment on their cats and 11 weeks of flea treatments on their dogs per year. This is simply not enough to protect them and prevent flea infestations in your home. The flea's lifecycle of adult-egg-larvae-pupae-adult is temperature and humidity dependent. The more ideal the weather is, the faster they can reproduce.



Morrinsville Dog Walk



Grab your lead on **Sunday November 18th** and bring your family dog to the Anexa Vets Dog Walk at the Polo Grounds on Avenue Road, Morrinsville. Last year, over 80 dogs and their families attended the Dog Walk.

There are two walks to choose from, taking approximately 25 minutes.

After the walk treat yourself to a coffee or an ice cream. The kids can get their faces painted, then settle in to enjoy demonstrations from the Dog Agility Club and Te Aroha Dog Obedience Club. Dogs can be entered in the best dressed and best trick parades, which are always very popular with the crowd.



George, a 9 week old German Shorthair Pointer pup, came in for a check up this morning at our Huntly Clinic. He has been with his new owners for 6 days, had vomited a few times last night and seemed to be piddling very frequently. We managed to catch him in the act of piddling and get a sample to check, and everything looked ok. He was also kept in clinic for a few hours for our nurses to monitor closely for any signs of nausea or vomiting. George was very excited to get so much attention, and wouldn't show any signs of being off colour in clinic. We sent him home with a container for his owners to collect a bigger sample of urine for further testing. His owners are also going to keep watching him closely for signs of nausea or further vomiting, or not eating his biscuits.

Puppies can get upset tummies very easily, especially with the stress of moving to a new house and leaving litter mates behind. They can become dehydrated very quickly and become really sick really fast. Its important to monitor them closely for a few weeks as they settle in. Toilet training can also be completely forgotten with the move, and it can often take a week or two for them to get settled back into a routine.

If a puppy suddenly goes off their food, has vomiting or diarrhoea and doesn't want to get up and play, it's important they are checked straight away. Upset tummies can quickly become very serious with babies of the four and two legged variety. We also worry about Parvovirus, which is more common in the warmer months, but hangs around all year. Making sure puppies are vaccinated as soon as they are old enough, until they reach four months of age, is extremely important to help prevent them catching this horrible virus.

Also, though you can't spot it very well, check out George's tail!! As of October 2018, tail docking is going to be prohibited in New Zealand. This means that dogs like George, who would normally have a docked tail, get to have a tail to show off to all their doggy mates.



Parvo - is your pup protected?



As pet owners we know that annual vaccinations are important, and that they help protect our pets from serious illnesses. But do we understand the passion behind our Veterinary clinic staff's voices when they recommend we get our dog vaccinated? Ever wonder what is involved if your dog picks up a disease such as Parvovirus?

Veterinarian Cath Picard shares why she strongly recommends your dog is vaccinated.

One of the vaccinations we give your dog helps to prevent Parvovirus, a serious illness that can kill your pet. The virus is highly resistant and stable in the environment for months to years. This means if a dog has parvovirus infection and contaminates the environment, any unvaccinated dogs that are exposed to that environment are at risk of contracting it!

How do I know if my dog has Parvo?

Dogs with Parvo can display a number of symptoms. The biggest indicator is bloody diarrhoea, but they may vomit, become lethargic, stop eating, and appear restless and uncomfortable. Dogs infected with parvovirus often deteriorate rapidly, so if you notice any of these signs get your dog into the vet quickly. A simple test can be done to confirm if your dog has Parvo, and we can start treatment quickly if necessary.

What can I do to protect my dog?

If you have a new puppy make sure they get their vaccinations on time, and make sure you keep them at home until they are fully vaccinated. Although vaccinated dogs can still get infected by Parvo vaccinations can significantly reduce the severity of disease.

If my dog does become sick, what treatment is involved in their recovery? How much would it cost?

Caring for a Parvo patient is very intensive and treatment does not guarantee recovery. Being a virus there is no treatment to kill it, so all treatments are used to decrease the symptoms. If your dog becomes sick with Parvo you will generally be spending upwards of \$1000.

This cost covers:

- Consultation: This is your initial contact with the Vet. They will examine your dog, make a diagnosis, and plan the required treatment. \$

- Hospitalisation: Your dog will need to be kept in isolation to prevent any other dogs in the clinic becoming infected. A dedicated nurse will need to put protective clothing on every time they check your dog. This includes gowns, gloves and boots. They will clean up vomit and bloody diarrhoea, clean the cage, clean your dog, check your dogs vital signs, administer medication, and give the Vet frequent updates. The Vet will also examine your dog regularly throughout the course of its stay to assess how recovery is progressing. They will keep in contact with you to keep you well informed, and make changes to the treatment plan if needed. \$\$\$
- Medication and Fluids: With all the vomiting and diarrhoea your dog will become very dehydrated, and their electrolytes will be out of balance. Your dog will be placed on an intravenous drip and will be given fluids to correct dehydration. Medication will be given to help decrease vomiting, and to try and prevent your dog developing septicaemia (blood poisoning). \$\$

You mentioned Parvo can kill my dog, what are the recovery chances?

The survival rate for Parvo is reasonable if caught before the dog becomes too dehydrated, or develops septicaemia or other complications. Puppies are exceptionally vulnerable to parvovirus infection. Some dog breeds are also at higher risk of developing Parvo (Black and tan breeds such as Rottweilers and Dobermans).

The best prevention against Parvo infection is a full course of vaccinations. These are given at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age (and in some situations a 6 week vaccination is needed). A booster vaccination is given at 1 year of age, and then every three years subsequently.

Many of the diseases we encourage you to vaccinate your pet against are just as nasty. For further details or to check that your pet is up to date, give your local Anexa Vet clinic a call.



New Animal Welfare Regulations come into affect 1st October 2018

New Animal welfare regulations come into effect on the 1st October 2018. Check out the new regulations for dogs below (text directly from the website), if you would like to read more please visit <https://bit.ly/2NZRq2n>

Muzzles on dogs

Restrictive muzzles can cause your dog pain and distress. You'll be OK if the muzzle you use meets these requirements:

- **Right size and fit** for each dog. A muzzle which works for one dog may not work for all.
- **Doesn't cause cuts**, swellings or abrasions.
- **Allows the dog to open its mouth** for normal breathing, panting, drinking, and vomiting.

Otherwise, you can be fined \$300.

You can use a more restrictive muzzle when giving treatment, including preventative treatment, but the dog must be under constant supervision. For example, a Vet vaccinating a dog that is a safety risk can use a restrictive muzzle, provided the dog isn't left unsupervised.

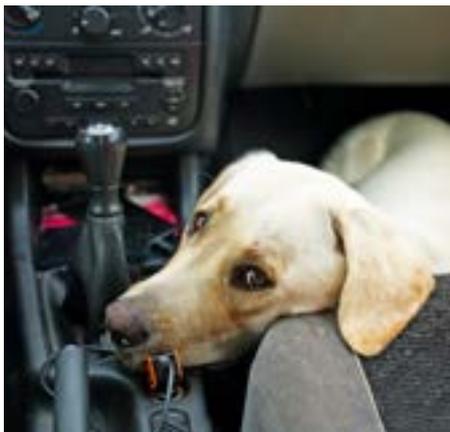
Check with your local authority for specific rules if you are required to muzzle your dog.

Dogs must have dry and shaded shelter

Your dog must have access to appropriate shelter. Check on your dog regularly. Your dog's shelter and living area must meet these requirements:

- Your dog can **access a sheltered area** at any time that is clean, dry, shaded, and ventilated – but not draughty – and protects them from extremes of heat and cold.
- The sheltered area must be big enough for the dog to stand up, turn around, and lie down in a natural position.
- The dog has **constant access to water**.
- The dog's droppings and urine don't accumulate where they live.

Otherwise, you can be fined \$300.



Dogs left in vehicles

Leaving your dog in the car on a warm day is a risk. **Dogs quickly suffer and die in hot cars.** If you leave a dog in a hot car and it becomes heat stressed, you and the owner of the vehicle can be fined \$300.

Thinking about bringing your dog on a journey? Plan ahead and ask yourself:

- ? What's the weather like?
- ? Will you have to leave your dog in the car?
- ? How long will the dog be in the car?
- ? Is it better to leave the dog at home?

A hot dog seeks shade and may pant, drool, and hyperventilate. If you see a dog suffering in a hot car, take immediate action. Find the dog owner or call the: Police, or the SPCA

Dogs on moving vehicles

Dogs transported unsecured on the back of trucks, utes, and trailers can fall off or hang off the side, suffering severe injuries. You'll be OK when travelling on a public road if your dog is:

- **secured in a cage or crate**, or
- **tied up safely when it's on the back.**
- If you use a rope or leash, it must allow the dog to stand and lie down in a natural position prevent the dog from getting its legs over the side of the vehicle.

Otherwise, you and the owner of the vehicle can be fined \$300.

Farm dogs can be loose on a vehicle, including on public roads, when they are actively working.

Collars and tethers

Collars

Poorly fitted collars can cause pain and distress. Check your dog's collar regularly. You'll be OK if the collar you use meets these requirements:

- **Right size and fit** for each individual dog.
- Allows normal breathing, panting, and drinking.
- **Not so tight or heavy** that it can cause skin abrasions, cuts or swelling.
- **Not so loose** that it can cause an injury – for example, by getting its leg caught in the collar.

Otherwise, you can be fined \$300.

Tethers

If you need to tether your dog, make sure the tether:

- is an **appropriate length and material** to allow normal breathing, panting, and drinking
- doesn't let the dog get caught up on nearby objects and injured.

Otherwise, you can be fined \$300.

Don't forget dogs need time off tethers for exercise.

Docking dogs' tails

Routine tail docking (or 'banding')

is no longer allowed. If you dock your dog's tail or allow it to be docked, you could face a criminal conviction and fine of up to \$3,000 for an individual, or \$15,000 for the business.

If your dog's tail is injured, go to the Vet.

If you see docked puppies for sale, report it to MPI, or the SPCA.

Removing dogs' dewclaws

There are **new restrictions on removing dogs' dewclaws.**

If you remove a front limb dewclaw, or an articulated hind limb dewclaw, from a dog of any age you could face a criminal conviction and a fine of up to:

\$3,000 for an individual, or \$15,000 for a business. If your dog's claws are injured, go to the Vet.

If you see puppies for sale that have their articulated dewclaws removed, report it to MPI, or the SPCA



Pet need grooming?

Kim our professional groomer is taking bookings now!

Tuesdays: Te Kauwhata | Wednesday: Morrinsville | Thursday: Huntly | Friday: Thames | CALL NOW

Coromandel
P: 07 866 8556

Huntly
P: 07 828 7660

Matamata
P: 07 888 8068

Ngaruawahia
P: 07 824 8630

Paeroa
P: 07 862 8815

Rototuna
P: 07 853 0027

Te Kauwhata
P: 07 826 3581

Gordonton
P: 07 824 2103

Maramarua
P: 09 232 5891

Morrinsville
P: 07 889 5159

Ngatea
P: 07 867 7256

Raglan
P: 07 825 8390

Te Aroha
P: 07 884 8014

Thames
P: 07 868 7005