

Summer Holiday Special



By Dr Brian Hogan, MVB Cert SAS MRCVS, Partner, Blacks Vets

Heading off on your summer holiday?

Or stay-cationing at home? Prepare your pet for some fun in the sun!

Summer is upon us and it's at this time of year that many of us take a well-earned break in the sun. Whether you're holidaying in this country, travelling abroad or simply relaxing at home, here are some top tips to help make your summer break a healthy one for your four-legged friend.

Make sure with a microchip

When visiting somewhere new, it's easy for a pet to become lost in unfamiliar surroundings. A microchip ensures that if you do become separated, it is far easier for you to be reunited.

We regularly see the worry and heartbreak that occurs when a pet goes missing and encourage all of our owners to make sure their pet is protected and that your contact details are kept up-to-date. If you find a lost pet or you simply aren't sure who to call to update your own pet's chip details, you can bring them in to any of our five Black Country branches where we can scan the pet free of charge, to establish which register they are signed up to. Microchipping is a quick and painless procedure available at all of our branches and if you're a member of our popular preventative health plan, Protect My Pet Club, you'll also receive a discount. Visit our website www.blacksvets.co.uk for further details.

Don't forget your passport

If you're travelling to Europe with your pet, then they will need a Pet Passport. The Blacks Vets team have lots of experience in this field and can guide you through the process. Here are some of the main points to consider: In

order to qualify for a passport your pet must be over 3 months of age, be microchipped and also be vaccinated against Rabies, both of which are available at a discount for Protect My Pet Club members. There must be at least a three-week period between your pet's Rabies vaccination and the date of travel. Pets must travel back to the UK through an approved route and dogs must also receive a specific tapeworm treatment 24-120 hours prior to entry into the UK. A registered vet within the country you have visited, must administer this. Contact our friendly team for more advice as soon as you are planning overseas travel.

Coughing Concern

A common canine ailment that is more prevalent during the summer, is Kennel Cough. This distinctive honking cough has little to do with kennels and everything to do with contact with infected dogs, whether in a park, in the woods or at a friend's house. It is highly contagious, but fortunately, preventable with a simple vaccine. Many boarding kennels insist on an up to date Kennel Cough vaccine before accepting your booking, so it's worth checking this out if you can't take your dog with you. Speak to our expert team for more information.

Beware of Alabama Rot

Although relatively rare, we are aware of reports of this nasty disease from across the UK, so it certainly pays to be vigilant. Alabama Rot damages a dog's blood vessels and kidneys and once contracted, can be difficult to treat. One of the first signs of the disease are skin sores that have not been caused by

physical injury. These sores can present as lesions, swelling, a patch of red skin, or may be open and ulcer-like. The sores are most commonly found below the knee or elbow or occasionally on the stomach or face. Usually, this will cause localised hair loss and the dog will begin licking the wound. Between two and seven days later, these lesions will be followed with outward symptoms of kidney failure which can include reduced appetite, fatigue, and vomiting. It is suspected that the disease spreads from muddy and wooded areas, so to minimise risk, we recommend washing mud off your dog as soon as you can. Importantly, early intervention makes for better outcomes, so do not hesitate to bring your dog in to one of our practices if they have any sores that you are concerned about.

Tick-off the ticks!

Ticks are becoming more of a problem in the UK on account of our warmer, wetter

winters that allow ticks to start feeding earlier and living longer. There are many different species in Britain, each preferring the blood of different animal hosts. As we get outdoors more, check your pet daily as some like the taste of a humans too! Ticks can carry infection and disease, the most commonly known one being Lyme Disease. The bite is usually painless but the risk of infection increases the longer it is attached, so do remove them swiftly using a tick remover, or ask your vet to do so if you are not sure how to do this safely without leaving the head in the skin. Prevention is most certainly better than cure in this instance, so do talk to us about effective options. Don't forget, Protect My Pet Club members are entitled to a discount on tick treatments too!

With a little planning, there's no reason why you and your pet shouldn't enjoy a happy and healthy Summer. The Blacks Vets team wish you all a very happy holiday!

NEW PET?

Give your pet the best start in life

Pet Starter Package

FOR PUPPIES, KITTENS & BUNNIES

- Primary vaccinations**
- Microchip for life**
- Flea, Worm & Mite treatment includes cover for lungworm**
- Full veterinary health check**
- 1 FREE emergency call out within first 3 months**
- 4 weeks FREE Pet Plan insurance**

Terms & Conditions apply. Please consult our website for further details.

PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE

ALSO INCLUDES:

- 6 month health check
- Royal Canin food
- 10% off Neutering
- 24/7 access to the Blacks Veterinary Hospital
- Free pet toy

Blacks Vets
www.blacksvets.co.uk

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