

# STANHOPE VETS

## The Stanhope Team

### VETS

Andrea Susanna  
Selina Bonelli

### Head Nurse

Kyra Sears

### Nurses

Andrea Tolhurst  
Hannah Aldridge  
Jo Humphrey

### Receptionists

Tracy-Jane King  
Karen Stenhouse

## Opening Hours

### Monday to Friday

8am to 7pm

### Saturday

8am to 12pm

### Out of Hours

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### Stanhope Vets

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## MARCH NEWSLETTER 2015

Welcome to the March edition of our practice newsletter.  
We have some exciting changes and expected baby news.  
Donna (one of our nursing staff) recently welcomed her new son  
**Owen** into her family.

Amit Greenberg, our most recent Locum Vet has moved on this  
month.

We welcome our new Locum Vet Susan Schibli.

This month our focus is on trying to control Fleas & Worms.

## FLEAS



One of the most common parasites caught by pets is fleas, with every cat and dog suffering from them at some stage in their lifetime. Fleas are the cause of Flea Allergic Dermatitis in pets, and in severe cases, fleas can cause anaemia.

### **What can fleas do to my pet?**

Flea bites cause discomfort and irritation.

Many pets become sensitised to flea bites which leads to intense itchiness, and severe self-inflicted trauma flea allergy.

Fleas are responsible for transmitting tapeworms to our pets.

Fleas breed throughout the year in centrally heated homes. It is therefore important to treat all cats, dogs and rabbits within a household and to maintain a flea control programme throughout the year.

### **How can I control the flea problem?**

Please consult us - we have found that many non-prescription preparations simply do not work well enough to achieve effective flea control.

It is practically impossible to prevent your pet coming into contact with fleas so regular treatments are necessary to control the problem and prevent a build-up within the home.

An effective flea control programme may involve the use of a combination of products. These attack both the adult flea stage on your pets AND the immature stages within the home.

## CURRENT OFFERS

### PUPPY/KITTEN VACCINATION COURSE

£49.99

Inc. free wormer  
& £10 off neutering

### ID CHIPS

£14.99

### RE-START VACCINATIONS

£49.99



We collect clothing  
donations for this worthy  
cause.

Please bring any bagged  
donations into reception.

### Anim-mates rescue centre.

We collect any food  
donations for this Hoo  
based rescue centre

### Towel & Blanket appeal

If you have any that are  
not needed we would be  
grateful of any donations

Lungworm is on the increase in many areas, including the UK and Europe where it was uncommon until recently. Lungworm infestation can be fatal in pets, and is often undiagnosed until it is too late to take action to save the animal. You **MUST** make sure that dogs and cats are treated to prevent lungworm.

Many worming treatments do not treat lungworm. **Advocate** is currently the recommended worming treatment for prevention of lungworm in dogs. Advocate is a prescription-only medication, and you will require a prescription from your vet to purchase it.

**Snails and slugs** are thought to be the main vector in the spread of Lungworm. Pets can pick up the parasite through direct contact with snails and slugs. They can also pick it up by drinking water from puddles, water bowls, ponds or other sources where snails and slugs may have been. It can also be caught from contact with any surface that snails and slugs have crawled over. Toys left outside on the lawn often have shiny 'snail trails' on them the next morning. You should try and avoid leaving toys outside for this reason. If you feed your dog raw bones you must not leave them out overnight - slugs in particular will be attracted to them, and may contaminate bones that your dog will go back to the next day.

#### **Discouraging Carriers of Lungworm - SLUGS & SNAILS**

As well as being a general nuisance to gardeners, slugs and snails are potentially very hazardous to dogs who may contract Lungworm from contact with the creatures or their slime trails.

Conventional 'pellet' baits are highly toxic to pets and should never be used in gardens frequented by pets. There are several pet-friendly tactics you can employ to reduce slug and snail populations. It may take a few weeks for numbers to reduce, but in the long run is a worthwhile investment of your time and energy, both for the sake of your plants and your pets.

#### **Deterrents:**

Restricting access to food sources in your garden will discourage slugs and snails, and should help reduce numbers.

In order to protect plants from slugs and snails you can fit strips of copper around the stems of your plants. These should be 2" wide, and can also be fitted around the base of flower pots and containers in order to prevent slugs and snails climbing into them.

Lava rocks can be placed on flowerbeds and used to form slug-proof barriers. The abrasive surface of the rocks will deter slugs and snails from accessing plants to feed. Changing your watering schedule can have a dramatic effect on slug and snail numbers in your garden. Both species are most active at night, and prefer wet conditions. Watering your garden in the evening provides damp soil in the evening - perfect conditions for slugs and snails! By watering in the morning you can drastically cut down on slug and snail activity, as the earth should have dried out by the time evening comes.

Keep an eye out for frogs, toads and foxes as they eat slugs and can be a disease carrier too.

#### **NEW OFFER**

For a limited time only we have 10% off of any **advocate** product  
Please bring in the voucher below to redeem

This Voucher is valid for 10% off of any **ADVOCATE** product  
Valid until 2/04/2015

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PETS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Product purchased: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## WILDLIFE CORNER

At Stanhope we assist two local wildlife champions.

### MIKE HEARN

Cares for all the local wildlife specialising in Birds.

### KELLY SMITH

Cares for the local Hedgehog population.

At Stanhope we try to raise funds to assist with the cost of treating the animals.

We have a selection of books in our reception that can be purchased for 50p each and all the funds go to these good causes.

We are also very happy to accept book donations.



# WORMING

## **Worms**

Worms are parasites found within the gut of your pet. Roundworms look like pieces of string, Tapeworms are long and flat with segments, which look like grains of rice and are mobile. They can occasionally be seen on the hair around the bottom. Worm eggs remain infective in the environment for years.

Heavy infestations can result in vomiting and severe diarrhoea and cause a loss of blood, weight and condition. Worms weaken the immune system, and by moving through major organs can cause other illnesses such as pneumonia. Whilst pets with less severe infestations may show no external signs, they are still a possible source of infection to others, including humans.

## **What can worms do to my family?**

The greatest threat to human health is the eggs from the roundworm *Toxocara*. They may be picked up from the environment by children chewing dirty fingernails. Although serious consequences are rare, these worms can cause blindness, heart problems and epilepsy. Also the tapeworm *Echinococcus* can be fatal to humans if ingested.

## **How would my pet get worms?**

Puppies and kittens may be born with worms or they may pick them up through their mother's milk. Worm eggs are left behind on the ground when infected animals pass faeces, then picked up on the fur of the muzzle and paws. These eggs may then be swallowed while grooming. Pets that hunt can pick up worms by eating rats and mice. Some worms can get into the body through the skin. Tapeworms can be picked up when pets groom and swallow fleas that are infected with tapeworm eggs.

## **How can I control the problem?**

You have to bear in mind that there is absolutely no tablet or injection you can give a pet which will *prevent* worm infection. The best you can do is to kill any worms which may be present on a regular basis, so it is best to choose a wormer that suits your needs and your pet's lifestyle.

To avoid worms reaching maturity and affecting your pet's health, and to reduce public health risks, you should worm your pet regularly. Worming every three months will reduce this risk, but ask one of our vets who will be able to evaluate your pet's health and your family's requirements and advise you on a specific worming routine for your pet.

There are a number of different forms available so even if administering medication is difficult, there will be a solution for you. Some are even available combined with flea preparations providing an all-in-one treatment!

**We have found that some over-the-counter wormers simply lack the efficacy of the prescription wormers.**

Stanhope Veterinary Centre can provide both over the counter and prescription flea and worm control medication. From worming tablets to flea and wormer combined spot-on treatments, we will discuss your pet's needs and ensure that you take home the most appropriate treatment.