

NMS News

Newdigate Veterinary Surgery Your Friendly Village Vets

Lungworm the silent enemy

Lungworm (*Angiostrongylus vasorum*) is a life-threatening worm that is spread by slugs, snails and sometimes even frogs. Foxes also play a major role, as they too can become infected.

As some dogs like to eat slugs, snail or frogs, they can become infected with lungworm. Even if a dog does not eat them directly, the lungworm larvae can be in water bowls, and on chews or toys left in the garden. So we recommend clearing all these from the garden after use, to help reduce the chances of accidental ingestion. Young dogs are particularly at risk due to their inquisitive nature, however a dog can be infected at any age.

Please contact your veterinary surgeon if your pet shows any of the following symptoms:
Coughing ❖ **Lethargy** A decrease in exercise tolerance ❖ **Excessive bleeding from minor wounds** This is caused by poor blood clotting
Anaemia (lack of red blood cells) you may notice your dog has paleness around the eyes or gums
Seizures (fits) ❖ **Weight loss** ❖ **Spinal pain**
Loss of appetite ❖ **Vomiting and diarrhoea**
Behavioural changes, particularly aggression



Slugs or Snails eaten by dog

Larvae passed in dog's faeces

Larvae are eaten by snails or slugs

Early diagnosis and treatment gives any dog the best chance of recovery, although it is not always guaranteed. Treatment for cats and dogs is simple. **Advocate is a spot-on that effectively kills lungworm.** We recommend its use monthly, as directed. **Advocate also kills fleas, roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, heartworm, biting lice, mites & mange.** Packs are available in 3 or 6 months supply. **Buy a 6 pack and receive FREE tapewormers for your pet,** which we recommend treating your dogs and cats with, every 3 to 6 months depending on their hunting skills!



Newdigate Surgery Hours
Mon, Tues & Thurs
8.30am - 5.30pm
Wednesday 9am - 7pm
Friday 4.30pm - 8.30pm
For consultations with our vets please call for an appointment on
01306 632863
24hour 7day
Emergency Care

Principal Vet
Viki Edmondson BVSc MRCVS



Dates for your Diary

Bear Green Village Day 12th June

from noon on the green next to the Weald School. Lots of crafts, stalls and dog show.

Newdigate Village Day 10th July from noon on the village green. Plenty to see - local crafts, businesses and join in the village dog show.

Our team will be attending both these events with the donkeys, dogs, rabbits and guinea pigs...so pop along to meet us, and give the animals a cuddle!

Don't Forget!

At our surgery we stock a wide range of high quality foods and **Royal Canin** prescription diets, to suit your pets' requirements. **Pop in for further information and FREE samples.**



Newdigate

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Meet Maggie Next time you visit the surgery please feel free to say hello to Maggie our practice cat ... who just loves attention! She was brought to us in August last year, covered in maggots (hence the name!) and close to death. With a lot of TLC from Viki and Jennie, Maggie made a full recovery, and became the practice cat as she was not claimed and no owner could be traced as she had no collar or microchip. Maggie now spends her day ordering around 'her staff' and snoozing on her shelf that was specially made for her!

Your Pet Needs Dental Care Too!

Dental disease is a common infectious disease in pets. Helping to prevent it will not only stop tooth abscesses, bad breath and loss of teeth - but could also help avoid heart, kidney and other internal diseases in later life.

Brushing The most effective way of preventing dental disease is to brush your pet's teeth on a daily basis. If this is not possible, at least twice a week will greatly benefit your pet's health. Preferably start tooth brushing from an early age, but it is never too late for a pet to learn, especially if dental treatment has been necessary.

We stock and use PETOSAN toothbrushes suitable for both dogs and cats. These brushes are double headed to clean the inside and outside surfaces of the teeth at the same time, and are angled towards the teeth and gum line ensuring maximum plaque removal. If your pet is uncooperative or you would like help with technique, we are happy to demonstrate dental hygiene procedures to assist you in keeping your pets teeth in good condition.

Diet This also plays a major role in dental health. For dogs and cats we stock HILL'S T/D diet, a unique kibble which, breaks down plaque on the teeth reducing bad breath. DENTAGEN chews for dogs can also help reduce plaque build up on teeth and can be combined with DENTAGEN AQUA, a liquid that is placed in your dog's drinking water. It acts like a mouthwash to maintain healthy teeth and gums by freshening breath and can help prevent plaque build up.

Dental hygiene will give you and your dog a better quality of life - for him less oral problems and for you his sweeter breath when he gives you that close up cuddle - usually after a particularly wet walk!



Healthy mouth



Severe dental disease

We advise 6 monthly dental check-ups, just like you have at your dentist. So why not arrange your FREE check-up with the nurse?

A Right Ticking Off! The thought of a something attached to our skin sucking blood is truly what nightmares are made of! However, there really are such creatures alive on our planet - **ticks**. Ticks can be found in long damp grass, by riverbanks and woodlands. These blood-sucking parasites require a host to attach to and feed from while completing each stage in their development. So while your dog is out exercising or your cat is exploring, a tick or two could choose your pet for breakfast, dinner and tea! These bloodsuckers are only tiny when they climb onto and attach their mouths into your pet's skin, but after a few days of heavy feeding they become engorged with blood.

Ticks can cause *irritation *soreness *skin problems *infections
Not only are ticks very unpleasant for your pet, but they can also transmit infectious diseases such as **Lyme Disease**, and as many pets now travel abroad, **Ehrlichiosis** and **Babesiosis**.

Prevention Check your pet regularly and thoroughly particularly after walks. Use a protective treatment against ticks. If you find a tick, pulling it out incorrectly could leave body parts behind, which can cause infections, so it is best to call your vet for advice.



Hercules wins Best in Show

We are very proud to announce that Senior Veterinary Nurse Jennie won 'Best in Show' with her pet guinea pig Hercules, at the London Championship small livestock show in September 2009 at Reading. The show caters for exhibition rabbits, cavies (guinea pigs), rats, mice and hamsters with displays of waterfowl, reptiles, and other exotics. All guinea pigs that are exhibited must be spotlessly clean and in good health. Hercules, a two-year old castrated shorthaired guinea pig, won Best Pet out of all the adult exhibitors and then went on to win Super Pet overall in show. Jennie has kept guinea pigs since the age of seven, and discovered the world of showing six years ago.



Jennie and a rather camera shy Maggie!

Congratulations Jennie and well done to Hercules!



Hercules 'the Champ'

N Newdigate
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S Surgery

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There are products available to protect and treat the problem of ticks. Please contact us and we can advise on one suitable for your pet.