

Move Out of the Slow Lane



CAMERON & GREIG
VETERINARY SURGEONS

Summer 2011

News



As your dog or cat gets up from its cosy bed, have you noticed a slight stiffness or limping as they walk? Has there been a reluctance to exercise, or perhaps just climbing the stairs has become too difficult for them?

These could be signs that your pet has developed **osteoarthritis**, which causes inflamed, stiff and very painful joints, generally in middle-aged and older pets. Some younger animals can be affected by this condition too.

How and Why? The cartilage that helps cushion the joint and protect bones, begins to deteriorate. The bone thickens in an attempt to protect the ends, which causes pain and inflammation. This continues, only to cause more pain, more inflammation and so on, creating a vicious circle that gradually restricts movement. The once agile life your dog enjoyed of walks and ball games in the park, or your cat nimbly climbing a tree, sadly become a thing of the past.

Treatment and Changes However all is not lost, as fortunately this condition can often be treated, so helping your pet to lead a better quality of life again. If you think your cat or dog are showing signs of lameness or stiffness, then bring them along to the surgery for a check-up. After a full examination, if arthritis is diagnosed, there are options available to assist with improving their movement. We may suggest a prescription course of treatment, to ease pain and reduce inflamed joints. Even a few changes to their lifestyle, could be all that is required to help your pet manage this condition.

Guidance and maintenance on weight control may be necessary as 'extra pounds' means 'extra strain' on those sore joints.

We can advise on correct and suitable exercise for your pet.

We may suggest supplements such as glucosamine, to assist in reducing inflammation.

Altering their diet may help, as special foods are now available, which contain green-lipped mussel and fish oils to help soothe joints.

We are always here with support and advice; so if you would like further information or have any concerns regarding your pet's health, please contact us.



Holiday Time!

Tickets, passport, sun lotion and..... dog biscuits?

Yes, many people do successfully and easily travel abroad between the qualifying countries with their pets, by using a PETS passport. For those of you considering the step for the first time, it is quite simple to prepare your pet for travel, and we are here to help you both through the process.

To obtain the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) document your pet will need:

1. Microchipping for identification
2. Vaccinating against rabies.
3. A blood test, showing a positive antibodies result.

Once these steps have been taken, a PETS passport can then be issued to allow travel. However, before embarking on your travels, please be aware your pet **cannot re-enter the UK until six months after the date of the blood test**. So if you are thinking of taking your four-legged friend to accompany you, and depending on your own return travel plans, we recommend you allow about 8 months for the process to be fully completed.



Return Trip There is one last requirement for successful re-entry to the UK, which is to ensure that **not less**

than 24 or more than 48 hours before returning, your pet receives documented treatment by a vet for ticks and tapeworms.

Keep it Valid Make certain your pet's rabies boosters are kept up to date. If they lapse, you will have to repeat the vaccination course, complete the blood test and wait six months again. So for successful travel and happy re-entry to the UK with your pet

- ✗ do not rush the process
- ✓ carefully complete all the steps
- ✓ comply with the return rules

We are here to help, so please contact us for further information, or to book an appointment to begin the process. Full details can also be found at www.defra.gov.uk



Surgery Hours

Consultations by appointment

Milnathort

01577 863494

Monday to Friday

8.30am to 7pm

Saturday 8.30am to 12.30pm

Cowdenbeath

01383 611410

Monday to Friday

8.30am to 6.30pm

Saturday 9.30am to 11.30am

Tillicoultry

01259 753375

Monday to Friday

8.30am to 6.30pm

Saturday 10.30am to 12.30pm

24hr 7day Emergency Cover

by our own vets and from

Milnathort branch

01577 863494

STOP Fleas & Ticks!



The thought of something attached to our skin sucking blood, is truly what nightmares are made of! However, we do have such parasites alive on our planet and who enjoy quite a feast on pets that have no protection. All cats and dogs are at risk from catching fleas and ticks at some stage in their lives.

Flea Facts

- They bite, causing sore skin, major irritation and even allergic reactions.
- A severe infestation can even lead to weight loss and anaemia.
- Female fleas lay thousands of eggs, some will remain on your pet, others will fall on pet bedding, carpets etc. Eggs can hatch within a few days or lay dormant for months.
- Fleas are a year round problem.

Tick Facts

- These can be found in long damp grass, by riverbanks and woodlands.
- They require a host to feed from, while completing each stage in their development.
- Ticks are only tiny when they first attach their mouths into your pet's skin, but after a few days of heavy feeding they become engorged with blood.
- Cause skin problems, irritation and also spread infectious diseases such as Lyme Disease and Tick Fever.



Check your pet frequently for ticks, particularly after they have been outdoors. Ticks like warm damp areas, so look especially at the ears and under the flaps, around the neck area and folds of skin, face, their feet and between paw pads.

If you see signs of excessive scratching, nibbling and grooming, please contact us for advice. There are products available to effectively treat and protect against both fleas and ticks, to help keep your cat or dog parasite free. Regular treatment of all pets living together is essential, and plays an important part in their preventative healthcare.



CHOCOLATE Scrummy stuff

but it contains 'theobromine' which can be poisonous to our pets. So don't give into those pleading eyes! If you would like further information please contact us.

CAT'S TAIL This is an amazing and very important piece of equipment for the cat. It's used for communication, and for balancing as it jumps to land perfectly on that very narrow edge of your garden fence!

DIET Overweight pets are at risk from diabetes, heart disease and arthritis. We can advise you on the type of diet, suitable exercise and provide regular weigh-ins for your pet to help them lose those unhealthy extra pounds.

DOG'S TAIL Short or long, your dog can tell you many things with their tail. When living in packs they used their tails along with body postures to communicate with each other. Today as pets, they still apply this form of 'conversation' to us.



Guidelines for Pets

Gardens Animals are inquisitive, so store and use all garden products wisely. Provide a shady area for guinea pigs and rabbits.

Ensure exercise runs are placed away from flowers and foliage, as some species can be poisonous to your pets if eaten.

Inspect your rabbit's bottom once or twice a day for the condition of 'flystrike'. Flies can lay eggs in this area and hatching maggots eat the skin and underlying tissue. It can be fatal, so if you suspect this problem, quickly bring your pet to the surgery, as they will require immediate veterinary attention.

It's B-B-Q time, so ensure bone debris is carefully disposed of, as these can get lodged in your pet's mouth, throat and stomach.

Sun Sunblock the tips of white cats' ears.

Regulate your pet's time spent in the sun.

Ensure animals have access to shady areas.

Exercise dogs in the cooler morning or evening air.

Heat NEVER leave your pet in the car, or in closed conservatories at home. Both reach oven like temperatures! Provide plenty of fresh clean drinking water. Pets can suffer from heatstroke or dehydration very quickly, which can sadly be fatal. If you see signs of increased panting, excessive salivation, anxiousness, vomiting or lethargy, call us immediately for advice.



Don't Forget!
With the increasing appearance of lungworm cases, ensure your pet is fully protected.

Please ask for further details on treatments against this parasite.



CAMERON & GREIG VETERINARY SURGEONS

Companion Animal, Equine & Farm

Milnathort 01577 863494

Ardmohr, Stirling Road KY13 9XR

Cowdenbeath 01383 611410

60 Stenhouse Street KY4 9DD

Tillicoultry 01259 753375

Unit 1 & 2 Barnpark Drive FK13 6BZ



Milnathort

All out of hours emergencies are covered from Milnathort

