

LUMPS & BUMPS

So there you are one day, grooming or hugging your pet and suddenly you find a lump or bump on their body. This can be a little scary for the owner, as you may tend to think the worst, but a lump does not always mean cancer. There are many reasons why these can appear, so let us take a look at just a few of the many types of lumps or swellings, which might develop on or under your pet's skin.

Lipomas are benign (non-cancerous) soft and moveable lumps of fatty tissue that form beneath the skin's surface. These vary in size, and generally surgery is not required, unless the lump is hindering the animal's movement or growing too large. It is advisable to have these lumps regularly checked, and as always any new ones that may appear.

Abscesses are common in cats as they do fight. Bites received can sometimes become infected causing large swellings, especially on the face, head and paws.

Sebaceous Cysts may form when a pore or hair follicle becomes blocked from dirt, hair or even sebum oil, which is produced by the sebaceous gland.

Skin Tags, Warts and Moles on the surface of the skin are fairly harmless, but any changes like spreading, bleeding or ulceration should be checked out.

Foreign Bodies such as grass seeds, awns or thorns, can become embedded to cause a swelling, especially between toes and in the ears.

Allergies to fleas, food or the environment may produce a few small bumps or many covering the whole body.

Calluses are thickened areas of dry skin or bumps around bony areas like the elbows. These develop due to regular pressure on the skin, from sitting or lying down.



CAMERON & GREIG
VETERINARY SURGEONS

Summer 2012

News



Stings and Bites from bees, wasps and insects also produce reactions in some dogs and cats.

Unfortunately, there are times when lumps are of a more serious nature. **Mammary tumours** can develop on female cats and dogs, however those that are neutered are at a lower risk from this condition arising. **Malignant (cancerous) tumours** can form. These are usually hard and attached to surrounding tissue.

Regular Checks As with any condition, an early diagnosis means the quicker treatment can begin, which in turn may help increase the chances of a successful recovery. So it is a good idea to frequently inspect your pet, and if you do find something, do not delay in bringing them in for a check-up. Many lumps are relatively harmless and just require a 'watchful eye', while others will need treatment in some form. A healthy pet and peace of mind for you the owner are far better all round.

Meet Katy Chapman BVM&S Veterinary Surgeon

Katy first came here to see practice whilst studying at Edinburgh RDVS, and after qualifying in June 2006, she then worked for us as a locum vet that summer. Katy has now returned in April this year to become a permanent member of our vet team. Her interests cover a wide spectrum of animal care from small and large animal surgery to neonatal, obstetrics and emergency medicine.

Calvings and reconstructive surgery are some of her favourite parts, but most of all she likes seeing animals fully recovered after treatment. Katy loves the variety of challenges created by working in a mixed practice, and certainly experienced this while working in Australia for three years. There she treated kangaroos for all manner of ailments from diarrhoea to broken legs, and stitching fight wounds of safari park lemurs! She also spent one of those three years, working in small animal emergency medicine.

In 2011 Katy completed the Coniston Challenge to help raise funds for the Guide Dogs, and would like to become actively involved with the neutering schemes of stray animals in India or Africa.

Katy's own pets are two young and friendly cats; Gizmo is a blonde, and Spook who was rescued from the roadside in kittenhood. The great outdoor pursuits of hiking, snowboarding, scuba diving and an occasional spot of abseiling or sky-diving, are on the fun agenda. Katy's slightly less extreme hobbies include music festivals, watching a good movie and socialising.



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

cameronandgreig@btopenworld.com

www.cameronandgreigvets.co.uk

Stop the car...I want to get out!

Some pets just love it, others hate it and for the latter, just a short car journey can be a nightmare for both animal and passengers alike! Travel sickness can cause anything from excessive drooling and panting to shivering and vomiting. It is usual for puppies and kittens to suffer 'motion' sickness on their first time in a moving vehicle, while for other cats and dogs it is just the actual journey experience that can cause stress or excitability, which results in travel troubles.

Cats can be particularly bad travellers with the problems starting before the journey does, as the carrier basket in their eyes is the enemy! So, get your cat to 'make friends' with the carrier. Place it in a happy, friendly, homely environment,



with the door open and a cosy blanket inside. Allow your cat free access to become familiar with the carrier. A happy, confident cat in a travel basket, and you are one step closer to a stress free journey!

Managing the Motion

Early introduction to the car is advisable. Allow your pet to sit in the stationary vehicle with you, while giving happy praise. Begin with short journeys to build their confidence, and always ensure your pet is restrained for their safety, the driver and passengers. For some animals it may help to withhold food, whereas others could benefit from just a light meal a couple of hours before the journey. Carry an emergency clean up kit in your car for those times when rubber gloves, paper towel, bin liner, spare bedding and a bottle of water will all come in very handy! If your pet is sick, poos, wees or shows anxiousness do not scold them, remember you are aiming to build their confidence. In time your cat or dog may gradually get used to the car and young ones can grow out of it. However if the problem persists, **medication and calming pheromone sprays can sometimes assist**. Please do call us to discuss one suitable for your pet, or for further advice to help overcome the carsick blues.

Parvovirus Warning

We would like to inform dog owners of an increase in cases of the **Canine Parvovirus** in various areas of the UK. This serious and often fatal disease causes severe enteritis (inflammation of the intestines) and can affect dogs of all ages, particularly young puppies. This tough virus survives in the environment for long periods of time and is mainly spread via the faeces of infected dogs, but can also be carried on paws, clothing and shoes.

If you see any signs in your dog of a **reluctance to eat or drink lethargy/depression - vomiting or diarrhoea - do not delay in contacting us.**

If your dog is not yet vaccinated or their boosters have lapsed, please call us for an appointment.



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



find us on
facebook.



Milnathort

All out of hours emergencies are covered from Milnathort



Long in the Tooth

There are concerns about the recent increase in rabbit dentals nationwide. Speaking from his spacious North London run, pet rabbit Robert told me, "Overgrown teeth can cause us major problems, so owners must be aware of how vital a correct diet is to keep our continuously growing teeth at the perfect length." Ask your vet for advice on the perfect rabbit diet.



Carrie Cat
Reporter
extraordinaire

Not So Sweet

Warnings have been issued that the artificial sweetener **xylitol** could be poisonous to animals if ingested, and is found in such products as cakes, sweets and biscuits. Please ensure that all packets, tins and bags of these edible goods, are stored well out of your pet's reach.

This was Carrie Cat reporting for Cameron & Greig Vet News.

Don't Cook your Dog!

Reports of dogs left in parked cars during summer are shocking the country. Dogs can die in minutes from the intense heat and the advice is **do not leave your dog in a car for any length of time, even with the windows open.**



Remember any type of vehicle and also home conservatories, rapidly reach oven like temperatures during the summer! Heatstroke and dehydration in animals can be fatal. Signs of increased panting, excessive salivation, vomiting or lethargy, then call us immediately for advice. Protect your pets from the summer heat. Provide plenty of fresh clean drinking water, ensure all pets have access to shady areas, exercise dogs in the cooler morning or evening air and regulate time spent in the sun.

