

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.

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.



Don't Cook your Dog! Dogs left in parked cars during summer 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.** Any type of vehicle and also home conservatories, rapidly reach oven like temperatures!

Coming Soon!

Grooming or bathing your pet at home a problem?

Then very soon you will be able to pop them along to the **new in-house grooming parlour at our Shawbury Practice.** Smooth, short, long, thick, wiry or curly, all coats require grooming and with regular care by our groomer, your cat or dog can say goodbye to bad hair days. A bath 'n' blow dry, a quick brush, nail clipping or a complete groom, we can help keep your pet's coat in tip-top condition. Regular grooming also provides the opportunity to spot any health problems in their early stages such as ticks, fleas, lumps or skin conditions and while your pets are at our practice, they can benefit from full veterinary support.

For more information call Shawbury on **01939 250655**



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 to arrange an appointment.

ABBEY hours

Shrewsbury

01743 232713

Monday to Friday

8.30am - 7pm

Saturday 8.30am - 12noon

Shawbury

01939 250655

Monday to Friday

(excluding Wednesday)

9am - 12.30pm

1.30pm - 6pm

Wednesday & Saturday Closed

Consultations by appointment

24hour 7day

Emergency Service

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.



ABBEY news

.....the comings and goings!

Veterinary Surgeon Frankie

went on maternity leave at the end of May, but she will be keeping us updated on how life is going and of course the happy arrival of her offspring.

Welcoming on to the Abbey Team.....

Veterinary Surgeon Nikki Singleton.

She will be helping us out while Frankie is busy with new motherhood. You may have previously met Nikki at the practice, as she has been a locum for us in the past. She is also currently working towards her certificate in exotics.

Lisa Knussen joined us in February and is a Registered Veterinary Nurse.

April this year, saw **Sarah Downes** arrive at Abbey, and she will be spending the next year with us as a trainee veterinary nurse.



Frankie

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.

The Heat is On

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.

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 Reporter Extraordinaire reporting for Abbey Vet News.



Your Pets Our Priority

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