



Help us keep you informed

In May 2018 new legislation will come into effect which means we require permission from you as soon as possible for us to contact you electronically.

You will be asked to complete a form when you next pop into the vets. If you do not wish to be contacted electronically (email and text) this may result in not receiving notifications regarding your pet's healthcare. This is because it will affect how we notify you for vaccine reminders, updates and appointments. This form is also available to complete on our website. We would be very grateful if you could assist us in this mammoth task!



Why should I pick it up?

Dog fouling, it's not just a 'litter' issue, it's against the law!



We've all been there, that familiar squish underfoot and immediately identifiable pungent odour that wrinkles the noses of even the strong stomached, you've trodden in someone else's dog poo!! But apart from the obvious annoyance, wiping of shoes on the grass and trying to get it out of the cracks in your trainers, why is it such a problem?

Unfortunately our four legged friends can be quite merrily carrying around diseases and parasites that not only pose a risk to their doggy friends, but to us and particularly children. There are around 6.8 million dogs in the UK, with an estimated production of 900 tonnes of faeces everyday!! That's a lot of poo!

Apart from the potential risk of some stomach churning bacteria such as Campylobacter, which could lose you a few days sitting on the toilet, or worse a trip to hospital, the biggest public health risk is a parasite called Toxocara canis. T. canis is a type of intestinal roundworm, they are the ones that look like spaghetti (I hope no one is reading this over dinner). A responsible pet owner should worm their dog (and any cats out there) every 3-6 months with a reliable worming product, you won't always see worms in their poo even if they have them.

Young children are more at risk from T. Canis which is transmitted either directly from dog faeces or a contaminated environment. Each female T. canis can lay up to 700 eggs a day and when a dog defecates they are passed out into the environment where the eggs can survive for up to three years in soil. During warmer weather the eggs develop into larvae which when ingested migrate through the body. When ingested by a dog the worm follows its natural life cycle and ends up as an adult in the digestive system (where it can cause irritation, diarrhoea and vomiting). However people are not part of the worms' normal life cycle and so when the larval stages are ingested by us they can cause nasty reactions and tissue damage. The larvae sometimes migrate to the liver and can cause abdominal pain and fevers, or can migrate to the eyes and cause visual impairment or even blindness by damaging the retina (the back of the eye).

So the moral of the story is, always carry poo bags with you when out walking your dog (we know it's easy to forget sometimes) and more importantly pick up your dogs' poo and dispose of it appropriately!! It is becoming increasingly common for used poo bags to be left lying around, if you've bothered to pick it up please put it in a poo bin! The local authorities are also happy for it to be disposed of in general public bins if a poo bin is not available.

It is also important to regularly worm your dog against these parasites, ideally every 3 months with a reliable worming product. Speak to your local branch of Cinque Ports Vets for more information, you'd be amazed how excited they get over a humble dog poo!

More information available at www.gspca.org.gg/page/dog-faeces-facts

Happy Easter!



Please make sure you keep your inquisitive pets away from all the chocolate eggs this Easter. Chocolate is extremely poisonous and in some cases can be fatal.

We would really appreciate it if you could find the time to review Cinque Ports Vets on Google or Facebook.

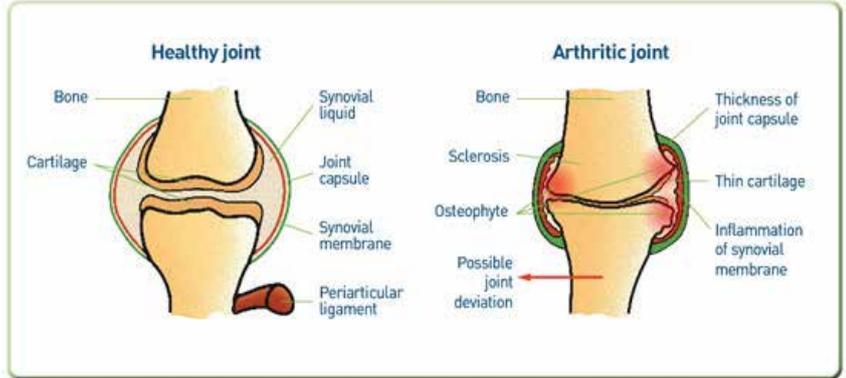
Your feedback is important to us. Thank you.





Mobile Moggies

Arthritis is relatively common in older cats although they do not often show the lameness signs we associate with dogs suffering from arthritis. This is because cats are relatively small and agile and they can hide and cover up mobility difficulties caused by arthritis.



Instead, affected cats are more likely to show subtle changes in lifestyle and behaviour. It is thought 20% of the UK cat population shows signs associated with arthritis. Because you know your cat best you are well placed to keep an eye out for the signs of this painful condition.

Freedom from pain can make a huge difference and this can be done using many different methods including anti inflammatories (pain relief), joint supplements, weight loss, laser therapy (available at Cinque Ports Vets), acupuncture, hydrotherapy and physiotherapy. Comfy beds are also important. Older cats tend to prefer to stretch out and may need an extra 'step' to help jump onto chairs or beds. They also prefer their beds to be in a quiet area away from the hustle and bustle of the house.

Litter trays should always be provided in the house, but an older cat may need extra trays as some control of bladder and bowel movements may be lost with age. Reduced mobility may result in a reluctance to walk too far to go to the toilet. The trays should always be large and shallow for easy access. Some have a dip at the front so cats can just walk in and out of them. Soft litter also tends to be better for older cats than wood pellets as it can be uncomfortable for cats to stand on.

Here are four simple questions that have been designed to help you recognise subtle changes in your cat's behaviour that could indicate painful arthritis. Cats do not vocalise when they are in pain and it is these subtle changes which help indicate a problem.

Have you noticed your cat hesitating or being more reluctant to jump up or down? eg. Onto your lap/the furniture/through a cat flap?

Yes No

Have you noticed your cat slowing down? eg. Sleeping more, especially in one place, stiffening up or getting a bit creaky

Yes No

Have you noticed a deterioration in your cat's appearance? eg. Matted or scruffy coat

Yes No

Have you noticed any change in your cat's attitude or daily routine? eg Less tolerant around people or more withdrawn

Yes No

If you answered 'yes' to one or more of the questions please contact your local branch of Cinque Ports Vets so we can arrange an assessment of your pet for you.

Congratulations



We would like to congratulate our Lydd nurse, Natasha Keep, who has recently completed a Feline Friendly Nursing Certificate and is now a ISFM Cert FN!



Our
Lydd Branch
is now open
until 7pm
every
Monday

Top tips for bringing your cat to the vets

A top opening carrier is easier to put your cat in. Leave the carrier around in the home so your cat is used to seeing it not just when they need to go the vets! You can also put treats in and encourage them to use it as a bed.

Pheromone sprays can help calm and relax your cat. These should be sprayed 15-30 minutes before putting your cat in the carrier.

Cover the carrier with a blanket and ensure the carrier is lined with newspaper and a blanket to stop your cat sliding around.

Hold the carrier from the bottom not the handle to avoid swinging the carrier around.

Be aware of what music and how loud you play it in the car. Our cats do not share our music tastes and cat friendly CD's are available!

Cat friendly areas at the vets will have elevated areas to put your carrier on so your cat can be placed above floor level while waiting to see the vet.