



# Dacre House *Veterinary Clinic*

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## NEWS



AUTUMN 2018

### Practice News



In June we welcomed **Hannah** to our team of veterinary surgeons. Hannah graduated from the RVC in 2014, worked in Norfolk for a couple of years

before taking a year out to travel and work abroad. She spent 9 months in Australia which she loved, though just a bit too far from home! Hannah enjoys all aspects of practice, with a particular interest in surgery. She loves dogs and hopes to adopt one at some point once she is more settled. Outside of work you may spot Hannah running/swimming and maybe taking part in the occasional triathlon!

As ever, at Dacre House we are always busy studying, attending training courses and keeping abreast of the latest developments in veterinary medicine. Our most recent nursing assistant, Emily, has started her Animal Nursing Assistant diploma with us and Heather continues into the second year of her Veterinary Nurse training.

**Fireworks night** is fast approaching which means nights of worrying for our pets. Loud bangs and flashes cause anxiety and, even in some seemingly relaxed pets, yawning, panting, restlessness and hiding may all be signs your pet is suffering from anxiety.

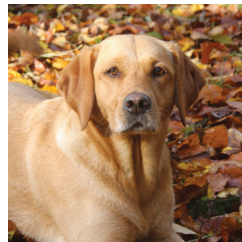


Preparation is key – many pets will benefit from calming products such as plug-in diffusers or daily tablets.

These should be started at least 48 hours (longer if possible) before fireworks are due to start. In severe cases, anxiety relieving sedative medicines can be used to reduce a pet's fear response and help them to be calm and settled.

We are here to help, so please ask us for further information on options for keeping your pets stress free at this trying time of year!

### Troublesome ticks and tick-borne diseases



Ticks love the autumn weather! However, unlike fleas – which largely cause skin irritations in both pets and their owners, ticks can also carry a range of serious infectious diseases.

Ticks can be found in long grasses and wooded areas, especially where there is wildlife such as deer and hedgehogs.

Here they wait for an animal or human to brush past them so that they can jump on and feed. They attach using their mouthparts and will feed on blood from their host for several days before dropping off. Ticks can cause problems in two ways:

- **Local tissue reactions:** Firstly, they can sometimes cause redness and swelling at the attachment site.
- **Disease transmission:** ticks can spread diseases which pose serious health risks to both pets and humans. The major ones are:

**Lyme disease**, also called borreliosis, is spread by ticks; affected pets (and also humans) can develop swollen joints and stiffness. They can also develop a fever, anorexia and lethargy. In some cases the disease causes life-threatening kidney disease.

**Babesiosis** (caused by *Babesia canis*) is an emerging tick-borne disease, destroying red blood cells and causing acute signs of anaemia in affected dogs.

**Erlchiosis** also attacks red blood cells and can be fatal. Both Babesiosis and Erlchiosis are particularly prevalent abroad, so if you take your dog abroad on holiday, it is essential to protect them against ticks.

Current evidence suggests that tick-borne diseases take many hours after tick attachment to be transmitted. Using a product that rapidly kills or repels ticks will help to reduce the risk of these diseases. No tick product is 100% effective however, so dogs should also be checked for ticks every 12-24 hours and, any found, removed with a special tick remover. So please let us advise you on keeping your pets safe from tick-borne diseases.

#### Tick Prevention

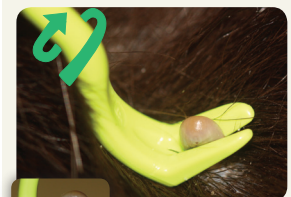
Our best source of protection against tick-borne disease is prevention. There are many tick repellent or tick killing products. These can come in a variety of tablets, collars and spot-on products. It is very important you speak to us about the best protection we can offer your pet.



Attached ticks with buried mouthparts are often found whilst grooming your pets

Additionally, if you see a tick, you must never just pull it out! The tick's body will detach but the head will stay in the skin and can cause nasty reactions. Always use a special tick removal tool. We can provide you with these and show you how to use them.

Specially designed v-shaped tick removers that remove ticks by rotation are very effective at removing ticks. A simple twisting and pulling action is all that is required to remove the tick whilst minimising disease risk.



The tick is carefully removed complete with its mouthparts

### Anal gland problems – is your pet affected?



If you have ever seen your dog scooting their bottom along the floor or nibbling at their tail, they may have blocked anal glands.

Your dog or cat has two small sacs that sit to the left and right of your pet's bottom, called anal glands. These glands produce a brown liquid, which has a distinctive strong and fishy scent. Your pets express small amounts of this liquid to mark their territory when going to the toilet, and this is why our pets often greet each other nose to tail! The glands drain upwards, which can mean that in some animals they may struggle to empty and become too full. This is not usually a problem, but some pets may start 'scooting' due to the irritation, chew at their tail or seem uncomfortable. This can be a sign these glands need emptying by a veterinary professional.

Some pets have to visit us on a regular basis for expression. We sometimes recommend trying a diet change or stool hardeners (fibre) to help. If you need any more information, please just call!



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