



Dacre House *Veterinary Clinic*

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NEWS

SPRING 2019

Practice news

Wishing you and your pets a very happy new year! We would like to take this opportunity to **thank you** for your ongoing support, especially the outpouring of seasonal thanks over Christmas; your cards, chocolates and kind letters received throughout the year are a huge encouragement and keep us sustained in our busy daily work.

As Brexit looms do watch out for changes in **pet passport laws**. It could take at least 4 months to prepare a pet for travel. Take steps sooner rather than later if you are planning to travel with your pet this year. If you wish to discuss this, please book an appointment with either Jane or Bradley who both have "Official Veterinarian" status to enable them to complete pet passports and other export paperwork.

We are pleased to announce that having undertaken training at the end of 2018, Jane is now able to offer **echocardiography in-house** – this means many patients will no longer need to travel to a referral centre for cardiac investigations. **Laparoscopic** surgery has now become routine at Dacre House – please do book an appointment if you are interested in this for your dog.



Finally, in staff news, we were very excited to meet **Becky's little baby girl Ava** who was born at the end of November. Congratulations Becky and Tom!

Holly Deacons joins our nursing team in February on a maternity contract. Holly recently left school but is no stranger to working with animals having worked with horses, deer, sheep and cattle as well as her own French Bulldog. She is excited to begin a career working in a veterinary setting.



Worms are the worst!

We all know that we should worm our pets regularly, but it doesn't always seem important, especially when our pets appear perfectly fine! However, worms aren't always obvious and can cause a great deal of damage and general ill health.

So what are the major types of worms we need to be aware of?

Roundworms and tapeworms inhabit your pet's intestines, interfering with food absorption and may also be a cause of gut inflammation, weight loss and diarrhoea.

Roundworms are spaghetti-like worms that are brown to white in colour. Many pups and kittens are born infected with roundworms because they cross the placenta and are also in the milk. Infected adult dogs show very few signs of roundworms but they can make young pets very poorly. The eggs are also shed in the faeces and are easily picked up on walks. Roundworms can also infect people and have the potential to cause serious health problems, especially in children. Occasionally you might see roundworms in your dog's vomit or faeces, looking like strings of spaghetti.

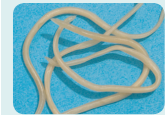
Tapeworms can be seen in faeces as white flat segmented worms in dogs and cats. They cause a failure to thrive in young animals, and symptoms such as diarrhoea and vomiting. Tapeworm eggs may be eaten by *intermediate hosts* – these include **fleas** and **small rodents**. This is why cats that catch a lot of mice will commonly be infected by tapeworms. Pets swallow fleas by grooming themselves and become infected in this way.



Lungworm: This parasite is becoming increasingly common in our dog population. Dogs are infected by eating slugs or snails carrying lungworm larvae, or even just eating grass that has slug or snail slime on it. Lungworm are swallowed as tiny larvae which migrate to the right side of the heart where they develop into adult worms. Here they produce eggs which hatch out into larvae which migrate to the lungs causing coughing. The larvae are then coughed up, swallowed and passed out in the faeces. Lungworm can also cause life-threatening clotting problems.

The good news is that we have a range of tasty treats and simple spot-ons that will help in the fight against these pesky parasites! Please ask us for more information!

What to look out for!



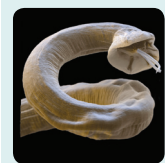
Typical Roundworms
– in this case
Toxocara canis



Tapeworm segments
– e.g. *Taenia taeniaeformis*



Both small rodents and fleas act as intermediate hosts for tapeworms.



Electron micrograph of an adult lungworm

Bunny boosters – is your bunny vaccinated?



Vaccinating your rabbit is very important since the infectious diseases we protect them against are extremely serious and often fatal.

Myxomatosis is probably the one you have heard of. It is common amongst wild rabbits and deadly. It is passed by fleas, which can travel from the countryside into our homes and gardens on us, other pets and wildlife. Protection by vaccination is the only cure.

Viral Haemorrhagic Disease is also extremely serious. It is spread by direct contact but also survives in the environment for months and can be carried by wildlife and people. There are now two strains, RVHD1 and RVHD2, and both need vaccinating against – given at least two weeks apart.

Rabbit vaccinations are usually given annually to ensure full protection. They are safe, effective and as bunnies are extremely good at hiding illnesses, the health check they get is also important. If you would like any further information or an appointment, please just give us a call!

