

# SUMMER 2010 NEWSLETTER

## Troublesome Parasites!

### Ticks

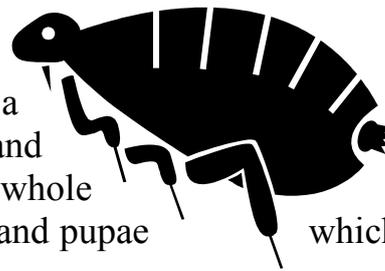


Ticks are active this time of year and they are found in many places including gardens, parks and particularly in long grass and woodland. They attach to your cat or dog and feed by **sucking blood**. Ticks not only cause skin irritation/abscesses but also transmit **infectious diseases** and can attach to humans!

It is important to regularly **inspect** your pet, especially after exercise to ensure they have not picked up this parasite. If you find a tick contact the practice, do not pull it off because the mouthparts will often break off and cause an **infection**. We have special tick removers which hook under the tick and gently remove them. Alternatively 'Frontline' spot-on or spray can be used and this will kill the tick within 48hrs. Also 'Frontline' will **protect** your dog against ticks for 4 weeks and cats for 2 weeks.

### Fleas

Fleas are present all year around but are more of a **warm** weather. Adult fleas live on your pet and sucking blood, but they are only **5%** of the whole problem in infestation! The remaining **95%** consists of flea eggs, larvae and pupae which live in carpets etc in your **home**.



Regular, effective flea control is important for your dogs and cats. Please contact the surgery to discuss a suitable flea treatment for your pet.

### Flies

Flies are a particular problem for **rabbits**. They are attracted to any rabbits with moist, soiled hindquarters. Flies then lay eggs in the rabbit's fur and the hatching maggots feed on the rabbit's skin and tissue which causes a painful and often fatal condition called '**flystrike**'.



To prevent this please check your rabbit frequently to make sure they are clean, dry and maggot free. Also remove soiled bedding daily from hutches. Regular use of 'Rearguard' will help to prevent flystrike in your rabbit for up to 10 weeks.

