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Get prepared: Flystrike in Rabbits

Flystrike is a serious and potentially life-threatening condition that can affect rabbits, especially during warmer weather. It happens when flies lay their eggs on a rabbit's fur, and the larvae (maggots) hatch and begin to feed on the rabbit's skin. Without quick treatment, it can become very dangerous.

Why Rabbits Are at Risk

Rabbits can be more likely to develop flystrike if they have trouble moving around, aren't able to groom themselves properly, have diarrhoea, or have soiled fur. Conditions like obesity or arthritis can make it harder for rabbits to keep clean, which increases the risk of flystrike.

Symptoms

- **Visible maggots** on the fur typically around the rear end.
- **Strong, foul odour**
- **Signs of pain** such as lethargy, loss of appetite, tooth grinding
- **Soiled or wet fur** that attracts flies.
- **Red or inflamed skin** where maggots are feeding.

If you notice these symptoms, seek immediate veterinary care.

How to prevent flystrike

- **Regular grooming:** Keep your rabbit clean, especially if they have long fur or mobility issues.
- **Clean living environment:** Regularly change bedding and keep the living space clean and dry

- **Monitor for soiling:** Clean your rabbit's bottom if it becomes soiled.
- **Fly control:** Use fly repellents or fly prevention treatments, and keep windows closed where flies might get in.
- **Address health issues:** Regular vet check-ups can help prevent conditions like obesity which make rabbits more prone to flystrike.

Treatment

If flystrike occurs, immediate veterinary care is essential as the condition can be fatal. Treatment usually includes:

- Removing maggots and cleaning the affected area.
- Wound care and treatment
- Pain relief and supportive care, such as supportive fluids and nutrition

Conclusion

Flystrike can be prevented with regular grooming, keeping your rabbit's environment clean, and watching out for any signs of health issues.



If you notice any symptoms, contact your vet immediately as it's an **emergency**.

Freeze your kong toy!
If you have use a Kong toy for your dog, fill it with pet treat paste and then pop it in the freezer . It takes them much longer to get the treat out and is great for teething puppies.

Add a banner to your dog's lead if they are nervous or reactive

Monitor your chicken coop for red mites



Grow your own catmint in the garden!



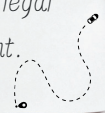
Rabbit food:
85% hay
10% vegetables
5% pellets



Whiskers tips!

WHISKERS

Make sure your pet is restrained in the car! It's a legal requirement.



Keep your cat's carrier out so they get used to it and it won't such a shock when it's time to come to the vet



Use a rubber glove to get the cat hair off your sofa



Tie empty poo bags to your lead for walks



If your pet wees on the carpet, use an enzymatic cleaner designed for pets to clean it so that the smell is removed. Animals should be less likely to wee there again in the future.



If your dog or cat is a little overweight, take kibble out of their daily ration amount for treats throughout the day. You can still feel like your bonding with your pet though treats without the extra calories!



Come for a meet and treat! If your pet is nervous at the vets, come to us for a socialisation visit and help yourself to a free drink from our coffee machine at the same time!

Add an action to the voice command when training your dog



Use a calming bandana if your pet is nervous



When weighing out your pet's meals, weigh out the week's supply on the weekend or a free day and pre-fill ready to go sandwich bags for each meal. No more rushing to weigh food just before you need to go out!

For multicat households, make sure you have one more food bowl, water bowl and litter tray than the number of cats in the house. And make sure they are in different locations!



Staff pets gone wild!

Have a peek at our staff pets and their antics!



Scratching the Surface: Battling FAD in cats

Flea Allergic Dermatitis (FAD) is a common skin condition in cats caused by an allergic reaction to flea saliva. Even a single flea bite can trigger severe itching and discomfort in sensitive cats, often leading to secondary complications such as skin infections.

Causes

FAD occurs when a cat's immune system overreacts to proteins in flea saliva. Cats of any age can develop this allergy, often following repeated flea exposure.

Symptoms

Affected cats may excessively scratch, bite, or lick, particularly around the base of the tail, neck, and belly. Hair loss, inflamed skin, and crusted sores are common. Cats with FAD often develop miliary dermatitis, a condition characterised by small, scabby bumps across the skin, resembling millet seeds. This is a hallmark sign of flea allergies.

Diagnosis and Treatment

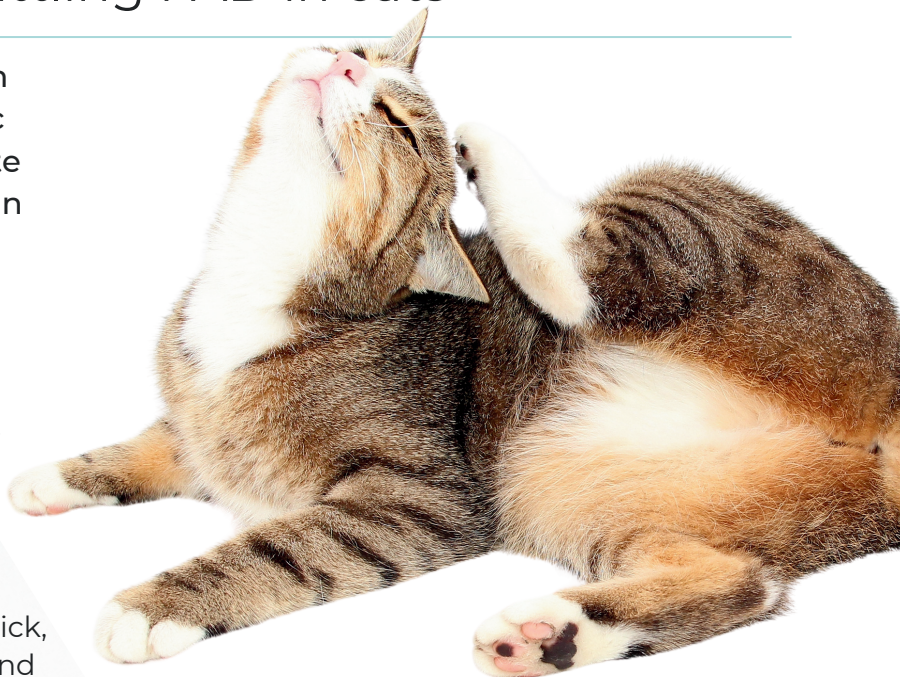
Diagnosis involves identifying fleas or flea dirt and assessing clinical signs. Vets may also use skin or blood tests to confirm the allergy. Treatment typically includes:

Flea control: Use prescription topical or oral flea preventatives to eliminate fleas on the cat and prevent reinfestation. The treatment must be used for ALL animals in the household regularly.

Symptom relief: Anti-inflammatory medications can reduce itching. Antibiotics or antifungal treatments may be required for secondary infections.

Treating your house (and car!)

To prevent reinfestation, it's crucial to tackle fleas in the home environment (and in the car if you have dogs too). Adult fleas on your pet represent only 5% of the total infestation; the rest are eggs, larvae, and pupae in carpets, furniture, and bedding. Use vet-recommended insect growth regulators or sprays that target flea life stages. Vacuum frequently and put pet bedding on a hot wash. If the infestation is severe, professional pest control may be necessary.



Prevention

Year-round flea prevention for all animals in the household is essential for cats prone to FAD. Regular use of flea preventatives, combined with environmental control, can protect your cat from future outbreaks. Even a small number of fleas can trigger a reaction in a cat with Flea Allergic Dermatitis.

Speak to your vet for advice on the best flea control plan for your pet. By staying proactive, you can keep your cat comfortable and flea-free all year round!

Want to Save Money on Preventative Health?

Our wellness club is the perfect way to save on essential treatments like flea and worm prevention. By joining our club, you'll get access to exclusive discounts, annual vaccinations and health checks as well as preventative care—giving you peace of mind while saving money.

Plus, it's a great way to help manage conditions like FAD before they become a bigger issue.

Find out how the Wellness Club can benefit both you and your cat by scanning the QR code.



Guinness' story: A triumph over pseudomonas!

A story of dedication and perseverance by Guinness and his owners.



Guinness had been struggling with a persistent ear infection, even after visiting several different vet practices, before joining us at Whiskers Vets. When he arrived at our clinic, Veterinary Surgeon Danielle gave him a thorough examination, including a full check-up and a swab for culture and sensitivity testing. The results showed a severe, multi-drug-resistant Pseudomonas infection in his ears.

To treat this, Guinness had an ear flush under anaesthetic, and his dedicated owners followed a strict treatment plan at home. After weeks of care, a repeat swab confirmed that Guinness was finally clear of the infection. We're so pleased to see him happy and healthy again, thanks to our team's persistence and the tailored care we provided!

Well done Guinness!

Staff news... an update from inside the practice

Welcome Julia!



We are excited to welcome Julia to the Whiskers team as one of our vets! Julia is an experienced small animal vet with a wealth of knowledge and holds a certificate in cardiology. She is now our go-to vet for all things heart-related, and we're thrilled to offer certificate-level echocardiography at the practice.

Whiskers Vets turn one!



We are delighted to announce that Whiskers Vets has reached a significant milestone - our first anniversary! It has been a rewarding year of providing exceptional care to our patients, and we would like to extend our thanks to all of our clients for their continued trust and support. We look forward to many more years of helping pets lead healthier and happier lives!