

# Stop the car..... I want to get out!



The summer season brings more trips out for us and our pets to the beach, countryside and holidays, which can mean a car journey. Some pets just love the car ride while others hate it and for the latter, this can be a nightmare for both animal and passengers alike! Travel sickness may cause anything from excessive drooling and panting to shivering and vomiting. It is usual for puppies and kittens to suffer 'motion' sickness on their first time in a moving vehicle, while for other cats and dogs it is just the actual journey experience that can cause stress or excitability, which result in travel troubles.

**Cats** can be particularly bad travellers with the problems starting before the journey does, as the carrier basket in their eyes is the enemy! Your cat needs to 'make friends' with the carrier.

1. Place it in a happy, friendly, homely environment, with the door open and a cosy blanket inside.
2. Allow your cat free access to become familiar with the carrier and make friends.
3. A happy, confident cat in a travel basket, and you are one step closer to a stress free journey!



## Managing the Motion

Early introduction to the car for your pet is advisable.

1. Allow them to sit in the stationary vehicle with you, while giving praise.
2. Begin with short journeys to build their confidence, and always ensure your pet is restrained for their safety, the driver and passengers.
3. For some animals it may help to withhold food, whereas others may benefit from a light meal a while before the journey.
4. Carry an emergency clean up kit in your car for those times when rubber gloves, paper towel, refuse bag, spare bedding and a bottle of water will all come in very handy!
5. If your pet is sick, poos, wees or shows anxiousness do not scold them, remember you are aiming to build their confidence.

**In time your cat or dog may gradually get used to the car and young ones can grow out of it. However if the problem persists, please do call us to see how we can help your pet overcome the carsick blues.**



## Cool that Hotspot Down!

*"I am in one of those irritating circles..... the more I try to sort the problem, the worse it gets! So there I was settling down for a nap and my leg starts itching again..... it did a bit earlier this morning ...oh yes and I had a good old lick and nibble at it when no one was around to stop me, but I've made a bit of a bald patch.... oops! Problem is it's now sore and painfully itchy and really making me feel agitated ..... just a bit more nibbling, lots of licking..... aah that's better ..... oh no.... I've now made a hotspot! If I don't stop licking, scratching and nibbling.... it will get worse and increase rapidly in size..... Mum.... help!"*

A **Hotspot** is an infected and inflamed area of skin possibly caused by some kind of irritant like fleas, stings, mite infestations, allergies to food or the environment, minor skin wounds, damp or poorly groomed coats. Some pets will constantly lick and nibble their skin out of boredom or stress, which can also cause a hotspot.

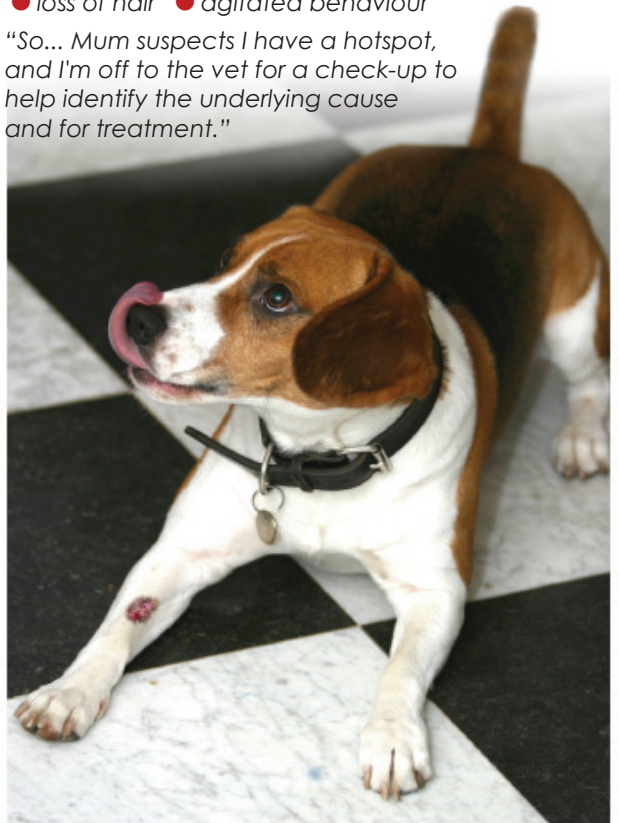
### Check your pet's skin and coat regularly

- Maintain all year round flea treatments.
- Keep your pet well groomed and ears clean.
- Dry coats thoroughly after bathing, swimming or from the rain.

**Watch out for.....** excessive or constant licking

- nibbling/scratching
- redness/sore skin
- loss of hair
- agitated behaviour

*"So... Mum suspects I have a hotspot, and I'm off to the vet for a check-up to help identify the underlying cause and for treatment."*



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# Tickly Ears



All pets get the itches that need a good old scratch! You might notice that your pet is scratching a little too often, especially their ears, which could be a sign that something is up!

Just take a moment to observe your cat or dog as they go to scratch.....is he or she.....

- Shaking their head/ears?
- Leaning their head to one side?
- Has a discharge from the ears?
- Flicking the ears?
- Showing discomfort?
- Scratching excessively?



.....your pet could have an ear mite (otodectes) infestation.

**Earmites** are contagious and transmitted via close contact with an infected animal. These tiny parasites live in the ear canal and cause tickly irritation, inflammation and a dark smelly waxy discharge. Using a special instrument, we can look way down your pet's ears to see if ear mites are present. Fortunately they can be treated and soon your pet will be feeling a little less irritated.

So if your pet is showing any signs of ear discomfort, book your furry friend in for a check-up. For further information, please call our friendly team.

## Summer Sun

Whether you are an experienced pet owner or it's the first summer with your four-legged friend, here are some sizzling summer tips to help keep your pet safe during the hot days and warm evenings.

**Heat NEVER** leave your pets in the car, not even in the shade with the windows open.....they will cook! **NEVER** leave your pets in closed conservatories, they reach oven-like temperatures!

Ensure your pets always have access to **fresh clean drinking water**.

Watch out for **HOT pavements** and roads as dogs' pads can burn!

Take extra care with pets who have long or thick coats, are overweight, elderly, have breathing problems or a heart condition.

**Sun** Recognise the Signs of **Heatstroke**

- increase in panting
- anxious/pacing
- vomiting
- excessive/thick saliva
- dark gums
- lethargy

Exercise your dogs in the cooler morning or evening air and **do not overexert**.

Most pets enjoy a good snooze in the sun, but encourage the forty winks in the shade.

Sunblock the tips of white cats' ears and noses.

Provide access to shady, cooler areas in and outdoors.

**Gardens** Store and use all garden products carefully, as pets do sniff and eat strange items.

Stolen B-B-Q bones and corn husks can get lodged in the mouth, throat and stomach. Clear rubbish as soon as possible.

Bee and wasp stings can cause allergic reactions; some serious. Call us for advice if your pet is stung or you see swellings on their paws, face or mouth.

Place rabbit and guinea pigs' housing, outside run and water in the shade. Ensure the hutch has good ventilation.

Check rabbits' bottoms daily for flies and maggots.

**Flystrike** can sadly be fatal. **Any signs of maggots call us immediately!**



**Seaside** Sand swallowed off a ball can collect in the intestines and is very difficult to remove.

Rinse sand from between toes and pads as it is an irritant.

Do not let your dog drink seawater as it is salty and can make your pet vomit.

The sea is powerful! Tides, undercurrents and waves can take the most confident dog by surprise.

Consider a life vest for water loving dogs.

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