

LUMPS & BUMPS

So there you are one day, grooming or hugging your pet and suddenly you find a lump or bump on their body. This can be a little scary for the owner, as you may tend to think the worst, but a lump does not always mean cancer. There are many reasons why these can appear, so let us take a look at just a few of the many types of lumps or swellings, which might develop on or under your pet's skin.

Lipomas are benign (non-cancerous) soft and moveable lumps of fatty tissue that form beneath the skin's surface. These vary in size, and generally surgery is not required, unless the lump is hindering the animal's movement or growing too large. It is advisable to have these lumps regularly checked, and as always any new ones that may appear.

Abscesses are common in cats as they do fight. Bites received can sometimes become infected causing large swellings, especially on the face, head and paws.

Sebaceous Cysts may form when a pore or hair follicle becomes blocked from dirt, hair or even sebum oil, which is produced by the sebaceous gland.

Skin Tags, Warts and Moles on the surface of the skin are fairly harmless, but any changes like spreading, bleeding or ulceration should be checked out.

Foreign Bodies such as grass seeds/awns or thorns, can become embedded to cause a swelling, especially in between toes and in the ears.

Allergies to fleas, food or the environment may produce a few small bumps or many covering the whole body.

Calluses are thickened areas of dry skin or bumps around bony areas like the elbows. These develop due to regular pressure on the skin, from sitting or lying down.



Stings and Bites from bees, wasps and insects also produce reactions in some dogs and cats.

Unfortunately, there are times when lumps are of a more serious nature. **Mammary tumours** can develop on female cats and dogs, however those that are neutered are at a lower risk from this condition arising. **Malignant (cancerous) tumours** can form. These are usually hard and attached to surrounding tissue.

Regular Checks As with any condition, an early diagnosis means the quicker treatment can begin, which in turn may help increase the chances of a successful recovery. So it is a good idea to frequently inspect your pet, and if you do find something, do not delay in bringing them in for a check-up. Many lumps are relatively harmless and just require a 'watchful eye', while others will need treatment in some form. A healthy pet and peace of mind for you the owner are far better all round.

Can I take your order please?

How many of us have been in a restaurant, seen the delights on offer and could not resist choosing the unhealthiest food item off the menu? However, we promise ourselves that when at home we will eat nutritious and well-balanced meals to help keep us healthy. For pet rabbits, there are no restaurants, they have to rely on their owners to provide their food.

Feeding your rabbit the correct diet **every day** is a vital factor for their well-being.

If you thought that a handful of pretty coloured rabbit food and a few lettuce leaves were sufficient, then we urge you to read on!

A regular well-balanced diet, which is a correct mix of nutrients in the food, is **essential** to keep your pet healthy and happy.

Rabbit's teeth grow continuously, so they need food that will help grind and keep them at a suitable even length. Overgrown teeth can cause eating problems, facial abscesses and cuts. They can also prevent a rabbit from grooming properly, which may lead to the very serious, unpleasant and often fatal condition of **'flystrike'**. Flies lay their eggs in the moist and dirty fur around a rabbit's bottom, and hatching maggots feed on the rabbit's skin and underlying tissue!

What Food and Why

Many of the dried mixes help to provide a well-balanced diet, but it can mean that rabbits will eat only the tasty bits, and leave the essential nutrients behind.

An all in one pellet mix is better. **Hay and Grass** will provide a high source of fibre, which helps the digestive system to function correctly and grinds those teeth too.

Fruit and vegetables can be given, but limit the amount as too much can cause stomach upsets.

The Ideal Bunny Menu
Starter
An 'all in one' pellet mix
Main Meal of the Day
Free access to unlimited good quality hay & grass
Dessert
Occasional fruit and vegetables



You can bring your bunnies along to our surgery where we are very happy to provide full advice on caring for your bobtailed friends.

SURGERY hours

ARTHUR LODGE
Horsham 01403 252964

Monday to Friday
8am - 7pm

Saturday & Sunday
9am - 4.30pm

WHITE HORSE
Roffey 01403 249902

Monday to Friday
11am - 1pm

DOWNSLINK
Southwater 01403 732219

Monday to Friday
8.30am - 5pm

ASH BARN
Ockley 01306 713177

Monday to Friday
8.30am - 5pm

Consultations by appointment

24 hour 7 day **Emergency**
Service by our vets

01403 252964

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

Some pets just love it, others hate it and for the latter, just a short car journey can be a nightmare for both animal and passengers alike! Travel sickness can 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 results 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! So, get your cat to 'make friends' with the carrier. Place it in a happy, friendly, homely environment,



with the door open and a cosy blanket inside. Allow your cat free access to become familiar with the carrier. 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 is advisable. Allow your pet to sit in the stationary vehicle with you, while giving happy praise. Begin with short journeys to build their

confidence, and always ensure your pet is restrained for their safety, the driver and passengers. For some animals it may help to withhold food, whereas others could benefit from just a light meal a couple of hours before the journey. Carry an emergency clean up kit in your car for those times when rubber gloves, paper towel, bin liner, spare bedding and a bottle of water will all come in very handy! 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, **medication and calming pheromone sprays can sometimes assist**. Please do call us to discuss one suitable for your pet, or for further advice to help overcome the carsick blues.

Parvovirus Warning!

We would like to inform dog owners of an increase in cases of the **Canine Parvovirus** in various areas of the UK. This serious and often fatal disease causes severe enteritis (inflammation of the intestines) and can affect dogs of all ages, particularly young puppies. This tough virus survives in the environment for long periods of time and is mainly spread via the faeces of infected dogs, but can also be carried on paws, clothing and shoes.

If you see any signs in your dog of a **reluctance to eat or drink lethargy/depression - vomiting or diarrhoea - do not delay in contacting us.**

If your dog is not yet vaccinated or their boosters have lapsed, please call us to arrange an appointment.



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Long in the Tooth

There are concerns about the recent increase in rabbit dentals nationwide. Speaking from his spacious North London run, pet rabbit Robert told me, "Overgrown teeth can cause us major problems, so owners must be aware of how vital a correct diet is to keep our continuously growing teeth at the perfect length." See our full rabbit report overleaf.....



Carrie
Cat
Reporter
extraordinaire

Not So Sweet

Warnings have been issued that the artificial sweetener **xylitol** could be poisonous to animals if ingested, and is found in such products as cakes, sweets and biscuits. Please ensure that all packets, tins and bags of these edible goods, are stored well out of your pet's reach.

Don't Cook your Dog!

Reports of dogs left in parked cars during summer are shocking the country. Dogs can die in minutes from the intense heat and the advice is **do not leave your dog in a car for any length of time, even with the windows open.**



dogstoday campaign

Remember any type of vehicle and also home conservatories, rapidly reach oven like temperatures during the summer! Heatstroke and dehydration in animals can be fatal. Signs of increased panting, excessive salivation, vomiting or lethargy, then call us immediately for advice. Protect your pets from the summer heat. Provide plenty of fresh clean drinking water, ensure all pets have access to shady areas, exercise dogs in the cooler morning or evening air and regulate time spent in the sun.

This was Carrie Cat reporting for Arthur Lodge Vet News.



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