

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.

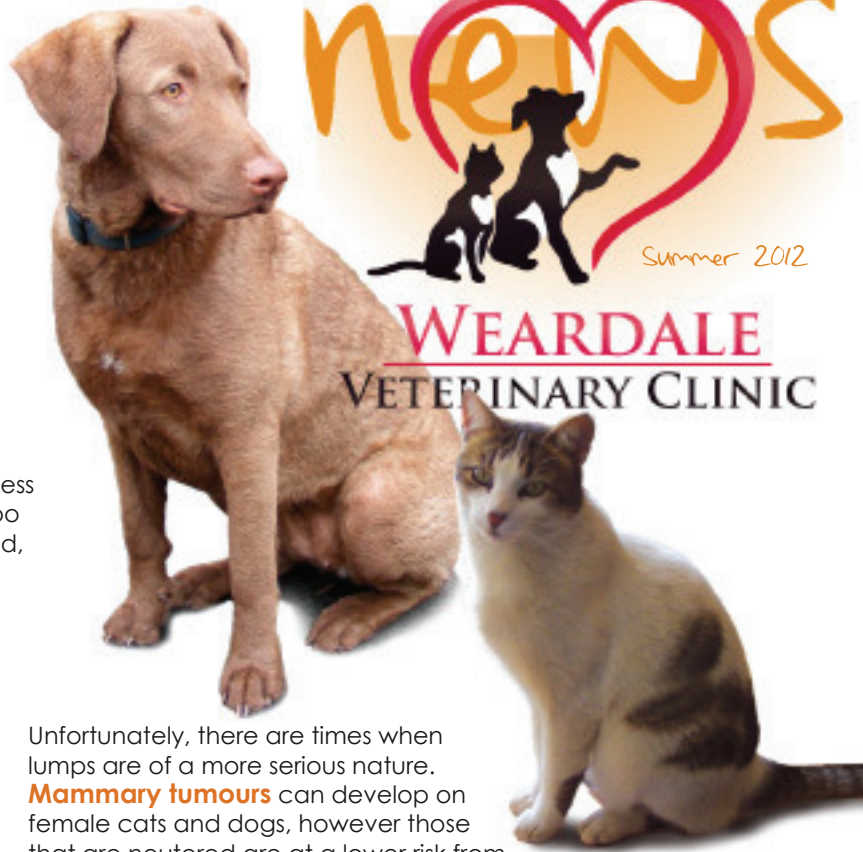
Skin Tags, Warts and Moles on the surface of the skin are fairly harmless, but any changes like spreading, bleeding or ulceration should be checked out.

Foreign Bodies such as grass seeds, awns or thorns, can become embedded causing a swelling, especially 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.

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

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.



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.

Goodbye and Hello

We say goodbye to Vet Rebecca Bradley and Veterinary Nurse Carolyn Woodhall, who have both moved on after four years with us. We would like to thank them for their work here, and wish Rebecca and Carolyn well in their new posts.

Hello..... and fab news all round!

The 'cat people' among you may have already noticed that Weardale Veterinary Clinic is now a **fab** practice.

Membership of **fab** (Feline Advisory Bureau) and **isfm** (International Society of Feline Medicine),

demonstrates our keen interest in the health and welfare of cats. On this note, we would like to welcome our new **Vet James Haddow** and **Nursing Assistant Helen Cottle**.

With clinical interests in feline medicine and ophthalmology, James brings over 30 years of experience to the practice. Greyhound fans among you may have heard of James, as he has a strong link with Greyhounds in the North East.

Helen our new nursing assistant is embarking on a career change, and has made a very good start here, already taking her work home, in the form of two irresistible stray kittens!

We wish them both a warm welcome.

Back to School!

Billy and Elaine were invited to visit Year 1 pupils at Crook Primary School where they demonstrated some 'tools of the trade'.

Armed with plenty of bandages, a practical followed with school 'pets' (soft toys) being bandaged from top to tail! Great potential was shown, and hopefully we've inspired some future vets and vet nurses. Thank you to staff and pupils for a fun and enjoyable afternoon.



Crook

01388 763743

Monday to Friday

8.30am - 6pm

Saturday 8.30am - 1pm

Stanhope

01388 529348

Monday 1.30pm - 6pm

Tuesday 4.30pm - 6pm

Wednesday 8.30am - 1pm

Thursday Closed

Friday 4.30pm - 6pm

Consultations
by Appointment

**EMERGENCY
HOURS SERVICE**

Vetsnow

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 eat only the tasty bits, leaving 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



Bring your bunnies along to our surgery, where we are happy to provide advice on caring for your bobtailed friends.



WEARDALE
 VETERINARY CLINIC

34 Commercial St
Crook DL15 9HR
01388 763743

3 Cowgarth Hill
Stanhope DL13 2PA
01388 529348

WEARDALE'S Special Offers

Let's See Those Teeth Sparkle!

June is Dental Care Month As a participating practice we are offering **FREE Dental Health Checks** to all pets and a **FREE pack of Dentastix chews** for all dogs that come for a check (while stocks last). Bad breath could be a sign that your pet has a dental problem. Decaying teeth and gum disease, can result in tooth loss and further complications. Regular brushing and care will help avoid the build up of plaque and tartar, which causes oral disease.



So pop your pet along for a check-up as your purse can benefit from a great discount of 25% on any dental treatment throughout our June Dental Care Month



If your pet is not yet microchipped then take advantage of our **Microchip Special reduced price from £18 to £9.99 during June!**

It's a great way of protecting your pet against loss, as it is a permanent means of identification that helps to happily reunite lost pets with their owners. A tiny chip, with an I.D. code unique to you and your pet, is injected under their skin and holds details, which are stored on a central database, that is accessible 24 hours a day. Scanners are held by various rescue centres, dog wardens and veterinary practices, and used to read the details to identify the lost animal. **For further information or to book an appointment for our discounted price, please call us.**

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 on the left...



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.**



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 Weardale Vet News.