

St Bernards Buzz

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2021



Travelling Through the New Year



It seems not that long ago we were getting ready for Christmas and New Year, and now it's already February! We still have plenty of warm days to come and some pets will be lucky enough to go on holidays with their families. Stopping regularly to stretch the legs and travelling in the cooler parts of the day are simple ways to making travelling more comfortable for you and your pets.

You can encourage your dog to enjoy car travel by: Placing your dog's meal in the stationary car and letting him eat it (this makes getting into the car fun), going for a short drive followed by a walk or play in the park (going for a drive is fun), and feeding healthy treats on longer journeys provided your dog looks well and happy (travelling is fun).

Other helpful ideas are: avoid smoking in the car, have the vents open (letting your dog travel with its head out of the window can cause eye damage and is very unsafe for many reasons), position your dog where there is less vibration (the seat is better than the floor), if you don't have air conditioning place a damp towel underneath your dog, small dogs can be propped up so they can see out of the window.

We also recommend restraining your dog when travelling. This prevents your dog from becoming a loose projectile if something goes wrong such as suddenly stopping. There are several types of harnesses available and if your dog is crate trained this could also be a happy and safe option.

Stickfast Fleas

These differ from regular dog and cat fleas in that they don't run and jump for cover – they stay attached to the one spot for several days.

Stickfast fleas are very irritating and cause pruritus (intense itching). The fleas feed on blood and can make an animal unwell as well as uncomfortable.

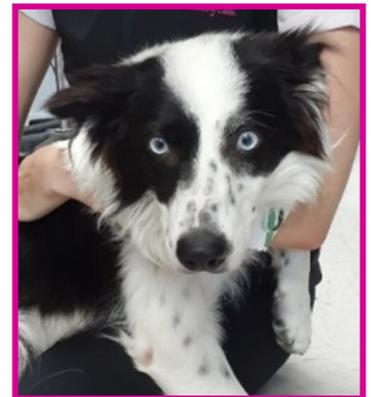
Generally stick-fast fleas can be found on poultry. They can also infest rabbits. However, their eggs mature in the ground and adult fleas survive for several weeks off the host, so this means cats and dogs can pick them up quite easily.

Once you notice your dog or cat has stick-fast fleas, it is advisable to treat the animal immediately with a product recommended by us. If you have chooks at home, they also need to be treated along with their coop.



Patient of the Month

Jayla



Jayla, the beautiful nine month old Border Collie, presented to Dr Win with a lump on her lip in January which her owners noticed had been growing over the previous three weeks. Dr Ru carefully removed the lump while Jayla was under anaesthetic. For further investigation, we sent Jayla's lump off to IDEXX for testing. Lumps and skin tags are common in aging animals but do present in younger animals too. It is always best to have lumps checked and tested. Although some lumps are harmless, others can be nasty.

Have you noticed any lumps or bumps on your furry family members?

