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## COMPLETE PEST CONTROL

You must treat the environment as well as your pet if you want to get rid of fleas. Weekly vacuuming of the sleeping area, furniture, and skirting boards remove the flea eggs, larvae, and pupae that are already present and prevents reinfestation. Bedding also needs to be washed at a high temperature as washing any outdoor kennels, runs, or enclosures is a must. These can be sprayed by an adult flea killer every week until the infestation is cleared. Please ask us for advice on ridding your home of these obnoxious pests.



**TIP: Train your dog to respond to a fail-safe word that brings your pup back to you every time. This is essential for their safety, so pick a word (eg biscuit) and get to work with training, so next time they get loose, you can holler out their special word and they will boomerang right back to you!**

**CHELTENHAM Veterinary Clinic** The warm breezes of spring mean longer walks, lots of mud or dust for your dog to roll in, and more birds to watch through the window for your cat. It is a lovely time of the year but there are a few things to watch for to ensure your pets stay safe and happy. Secure open windows so that your cat cannot push through any screens and escape into the surrounding area and get lost. Spring is traditional the time for cleaning, both inside and out in the garden. Nosey animals can get into trouble if they can access chemically based cleaners. Make sure you lock the chemicals away after use because animals are very curious and may decide to sample the product, much to their detriment. And what would spring be without the bugs? They hang out around stagnant pools of water and spring is the start their breeding season, so ensure your pet is protected to keep fleas, mosquitos and ticks at bay. But overall, spring is a lovely time of the year, so enjoy the last month of the season in what has been a turbulent year for all.



## HOW DO FLEAS & TICKS EFFECT YOUR PET?

When these parasites feed on your pet, they inject foreign substances into your cat or dogs' skin that cause skin irritations. Sometimes the irritation is so intense that your pet may bite or scratch their skin until it becomes quite raw and their hair falls out. Your pet can also get tapeworms and other dangerous conditions from these bloodsucking parasites.

Ticks come in many types, all which will feed off your pets' blood. They not only cause irritation but a certain type of tick can also cause paralysis caused by a toxin that they inject into their victim. This toxin affects the nervous system leading to a number of symptoms and even potentially death. It is important to be aware of these nasty parasites as they can make a pets life a living hell.

Prevention is the best solution. It can be in the form of tablets, an oral chew or a spot on product applied to their skin. Only use a product that is safe for your pets' species; a product for a dog can be fatal if given to a cat. If you have a new pet, bring them in to the clinic and we can [advise on the best product](#) for your pet, taking their age and weight into consideration. The cost of prevention is minimal compared to the cost for treatment of a fully blown disease. Please act now and prevent the heartache associated with these diabolical pests.

## DOES YOUR PET HAVE A SORE BACK, KNEES, HIPS, SPINE ETC?

Young animals are particularly prone to aching joints due to their enthusiasm. They often get excited about going for a walk, diner being served, or their owner arriving home. They fly off the bed or leap down a flight of steps only to land the wrong way. A young pet may get aches from certain developmental issues which makes moving around difficult. An older pet is not as flexible as they were in their youth. Landing awkwardly or overdo jumping activities can cause pain or injury. Many pets hide their pain, but if you notice your pet hobbling or walking a bit funny for more than a day, it may be time to bring them into us for a health checkup. It is better to nip a health problem in the bud while it is small, rather than wait and hope the condition will clear up. Smaller problems are easier to cure than a fully blown health issue. So bring your furbaby in for a visit, we love to fuss over them.



### A Little Touch of Humor

There is no snooze button on a cat who wants breakfast!

There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face.

Do not meddle in the affairs of cats, for they are subtle and will pee on your computer!

How to give your cat a tablet without ending up scratched or bitten? That's easy, just get your vet to do it!



### TOYS -SWAP QUANTITY 4 QUALITY.

Pet toys add up and cheaper toys can become a hazard when they break. Consider swapping out cheap toys for durable ones. Rubber and rope are so much stronger than plastic, latex, or a plush toy. They can survive more vigorous play as well. If your pet has grown tired of a toy, consider donating them to a local shelter. Give another pet a chance to enjoy playing with them rather than just dumping them to become yet more landfill



**HIP DYSPLASIA** This condition is a painful, crippling disease that causes a dogs' hip to weaken, deteriorate and become arthritic. Hip Dysplasia stems from abnormal development within the hip joint in which the head of the femur doesn't quite fit as it should into the socket. Larger breeds of dogs are more prone to this disease and it can be severe and cause painful arthritis. Medicine and surgery are the two methods of treatment. Symptoms are lack of mobility, pain and perhaps whining.

**LACERATIONS** - Open or bleeding wounds. When your pet has a wound where the skin and other body tissues are torn, there is the potential for heamorrhage or infection. Careful cleaning of the wound is vital, as any foreign substance left in the wound will cause it to fester. Stitches or surgery may be required.

Both the above conditions require [urgent veterinary assistance](#). Don't delay as your dogs condition will only worsen without treatment.

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### SPRING THUNDERSTORMS AND PETS.

Thunderstorms can instill fear in dogs and cats but all is not lost; here are some tips to help you and your pet cope with stormy weather.

**Make sure your pet is [microchipped](#) in case they run away during a stormy encounter. It will help them to be returned to you safely.** Dogs and cats need a safe place to stay during a storm. A properly introduced crate can be a refuge for them. **Bring dogs and cats inside during a storm to prevent panic leading to injury as they flee your property.**

Some dogs get destructive during a panic attack. Use the dog crate to keep your dog and your belongings safe. **Provide a barrier from the storm by closing the windows and doors, drawing the curtains, and have the television or radio playing soft music at normal volume to distract from the storm.**

Pets may become incontinent due to their extreme fear. Be prepared and understanding. **Offer a cat or a dog a bed or a pile of blankets that they can burrow into and hide.**

Above all, be relaxed and keep calm. Your animals will pick up on your vibes so ensure they are good ones. **Sometimes a firm fitting vest ( a Thundershirt) can calm a dog or cat, it makes them feel protected.** Sit with your pet and reassure them. Perhaps cuddle your pet while watching a funny movie will help you both. In extreme cases, medication can help. But try these tips first.

**TIP: Leave your cat carrier out with the door open all the time. Put a small cosy blanket on the floor, and let your cat use it as their safe place. Once they get used to it, pop them in, close the door and do a short walk in the house before opening the door and giving them a treat. Keep doing this until they get used to it, then progress to walking outside, then put it in the car, wait a few minutes with your kitten, then carry them back in and reward them. This way, your cat associates the carrier as a positive fun thing. Then if you need to bring kitty into see us, or you are moving the trip will not be so scary!**