



**Tick or Not a Tick?**



Tick

Attached tick

Found a small lump on your pet? It could be a tick or wart/cyst.

Ticks are commonly mistaken for skin lumps, particularly once they have attached and started feeding. Regular grooming is a great way to spot ticks and other skin problems early.

If you're unsure whether you've found a tick or a lump, it's always worth getting it checked but ticks often have mouth parts attached as per the picture.

We can also recommend **safe, effective tick prevention** so chat to your local vet/nurse if you are worried.

For any information about any of the articles or any further information email [cvg@culverden.co.uk](mailto:cvg@culverden.co.uk)

**Consulting times Vets Branches**



Tunbridge Wells 018926520296	Monday-Friday 9am-12pm, 2:30-4:30pm, 5-6:30pm Saturday 8:30am-12pm
Crowborough 01892661650	Monday-Friday 9am-12pm, 2:30-4:30pm, 5-6:30pm Saturday 8:30am-12pm
Wadhurst 01892782382	Monday-Friday 9am-12pm, 2:30-4:30pm,  Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 5-6:30pm

**🐾 Seasonal Allergies in Pets 🐾**

Many of us associate Spring and Summer with hay fever symptoms such as itchy eyes, sneezing and runny noses. But did you know that our pets can suffer from seasonal allergies too?

An allergy occurs when the immune system overreacts to something normally harmless, such as pollen, grass or mould. This reaction causes inflammation and irritation, which can range from mild to severe.

**What Are the Signs?**

Unlike people, pets with allergies often develop skin problems rather than respiratory symptoms. Common signs include:

- Excessive licking, chewing or scratching
- Red, sore or inflamed skin
- Head shaking or recurrent ear problems
- Itchy paws, face, ears, armpits or tummy

**What Causes Seasonal Allergies?**

Spring and summer allergies are often triggered by pollen. Tree pollen tends to peak in early spring, grass pollen is most common from late spring into summer, and weeds can cause problems later in the year.

If you notice your pet's symptoms worsening at certain times of year, this can provide useful clues about the cause.

**When to Seek Veterinary Advice**

Many allergy symptoms can look like other medical conditions, so it is important to have your pet examined if you are concerned. We can help identify the cause of the problem and discuss treatment options, which may include medication, dietary advice or further testing.

*If your pet is suffering from itchy skin, recurrent ear problems, sore eyes or other signs of allergies, please contact the practice for advice. Early treatment can help keep them comfortable throughout the allergy season.*





# Culverden Vets

## Summertime Cats:



Many cats love basking in the sunshine, but cats with white ears or pink noses are particularly prone to sunburn. Repeated sun damage can lead to skin cancer.

Applying a pet-safe high-factor sunblock to vulnerable areas can help reduce the risk.

## Rabbits & Guinea Pigs Summertime Protection:

Rabbits and guinea pigs can struggle in hot weather. In the wild, they would retreat underground to cool burrows.

- Move hutches and runs to a shaded, well-ventilated area.
- Provide plenty of fresh water and check it regularly.
- Offer multiple water sources in case one gets knocked over.

Flystrike is a serious summer risk. Flies are attracted to soiled fur and can lay eggs that quickly hatch into maggots. To reduce the risk.

- Keep your rabbit's bottom clean and dry.
- Check your rabbit at least twice daily during warm weather.
- Contact us immediately if you see maggots or have any concerns.



## **Summer Pet Safety Tips:**

Finally, summer is here! While most of us – and our pets – enjoy the warmer weather, the season brings its own set of challenges. Here are some simple tips to help keep your pets happy, healthy and safe this summer.

### **Beware of Heatstroke**

Heatstroke is a serious and potentially fatal condition. While all dogs can be affected, short-nosed breeds such as Pugs, Bulldogs and Staffordshire Bull Terriers are particularly at risk, especially if they are overweight.

To help prevent heatstroke:

- Avoid walks /exercise during the hottest part of the day.
- Make sure your pet has access to plenty of fresh water and shade.
- Avoid excessive exertion, even in the morning or evening. Some heat stroke cases happen at home!

If your pet seems distressed by the heat, move them to a cool, shaded area, offer water and contact us immediately for advice if you think they have heatstroke.

### **Watch Out for Grass Seeds**

Grass seeds can easily become lodged in paws, ears and other areas of the body, causing pain and infection. Signs to watch for include:

- Sudden head shaking
- Excessive licking of feet
- Swelling or soreness

Regular grooming & checking your pet after walks can detect problems early.