

Grass Seeds

Why can grass seeds cause a problem?

Grass seeds can cause severe problems in dogs, and in particular circumstances can even lead to surgery to remove them. The seeds can enter the nose, get between the eye and eyelids, burrow their way into the deep fur around the toes and feet, and can even make their way into the ears, resulting in severe pain and irritation.

The seeds causing the most problems are those shaped like small darts. They have a very sharp point and a long tail, and will penetrate the skin of your dog with ease.

How do I know if my dog has a grass seed stuck?

In the ears - you may notice itching, shaking of the head, rubbing the head along the floor, walking with a tilted head.

In the nose - can cause sneezing, itching of the nose, nasal discharge.

In the skin - your dog will likely chew and lick the area. If in their feet then they may become lame.

In the mouth - if the seed is swallowed, it may become lodged in the throat, causing inflammation and swelling. They may cough, attempt to vomit or have difficulty eating.

In the lungs and other organs - seeds can be inhaled through the nose, and in severe cases seeds that penetrate the skin can enter organs.

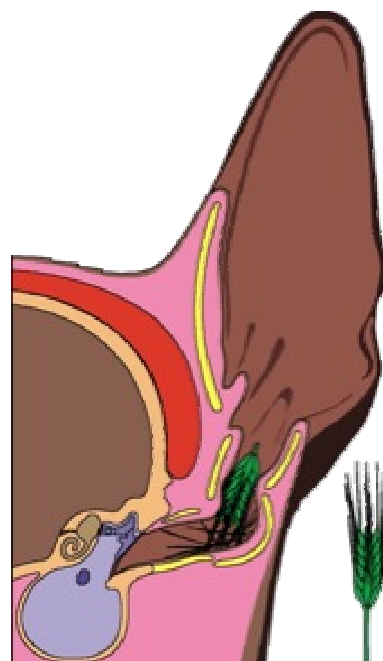
How can I prevent this from happening?

This can be prevented firstly by avoiding fields with long grass.

If you do walk in these field check your dog after the walk to ensure there are no seeds hiding in your dogs coat.

It is advisable to get your dog feet and ears clipped, especially long haired breeds, so that the hair does not trap seeds.

If you suspect your dog has a grass seed stuck please don't hesitate to contact us.



Opening times

8:00-18:45

Weekdays

8:30 - 12:45

Saturdays

Nurses Clinics

Weekdays

15:30 - 16:30

Branch Surgeries

Burford

14:30 - 16:00

Weekdays

11:30 - 12 :00

Saturdays

Bloxham

17:00 - 18:00

Weekdays

11:30 - 12:00

Saturdays

Staff

Practice Directors

Peter Kettlewell

Stephen Cannon

Martin Whitehead

Consultant

Peter Aylmer

Assistants

Alison Roberts

Bronwyn Koterwas

Veterinary Nurses

Lynne Tyler RVN

Michelle Peedell RVN

Laura Nicholls SVN

Elaine Benfield SVN

Vikki Kershaw SVN

Kirtsy Bull SVN

Receptionists

Gemma Hutchins

Cynthia Gardner

Lucie Robinson

Claire Soles

Fly strike

What is fly strike?

Fly strike is an infestation of maggots. Blowfly lay their eggs in warm, damp places such as the fur of animals. The eggs hatch a day later, and the larvae, maggots, eat into the flesh, i.e. your rabbit. As the maggots grow, they eat further into the rabbit and, generally, if it is not found in time, the rabbit will have suffered so much damage that it has to be put down.



Who can get fly strike?

Fly strike is a very common problem in overweight and arthritic rabbits, rabbits with heavy dewlaps, those prone to sticky bottom or suffering from a urinary infection. All rabbits should be checked for fly strike at least twice daily in summer and treated with one of the veterinary licensed products such as Rearguard.

What to do if you find maggots

Contact your vets and tell them the situation, then transport them in a safe carrier to the veterinary surgery for treatment. The maggots need to be removed from the rabbits as soon as possible however this may only be possible under sedation as your pet may be in pain.

Prevention is better than cure

Fly strike can be very distressing for you and your rabbit but can be prevented using some simple steps:

Good husbandry is essential to prevent any flies being attracted to your pet.

Spot on treatments are also available to prevent flies from being attracted to your rabbit.



Top tips for warm weather

- Your dog should always be able to move into a cooler, ventilated environment if he/she is feeling hot.
 - **Never** leave your dog alone in a car. If you want to take your dog with you on a car journey, make sure that your destination is dog-friendly – you won't be able to leave your dog in the car and you don't want your day out to be ruined!
 - If you have to leave your dog outside, you must provide a cool shady spot where he/she can escape from the sun at all times of the day.
 - Make sure your dog always has a good supply of drinking water, in a weighted bowl that can't be knocked over. Carry water with you on hot days and give your dog frequent small amounts.
 - Never leave your dog in a glass conservatory or a caravan. Even if it is cloudy when you leave, the sun may come out later in the day and make it unbearably hot.
 - Groom your dog regularly to get rid of excess hair. Give long-coated breeds a haircut at the start of the summer, and later in the season, if necessary.
 - Dogs need exercise - even when it is hot. Walk your dog early in the morning or later in the evening. Never allow your dog to exercise excessively in hot weather.
- Dogs can get sunburned too – particularly those with light-coloured noses or light-coloured fur on their ears.

