



Primrose Hill Vet Hospital

NEWS

SPRING 2020

STAFF PROFILE

Brigid Broekhoven



Brigid enjoyed a twenty year career in the fitness industry. She took a very active role in the Special Olympics and it is a memory she will cherish for the rest of her life.

Her role as a fitness instructor gave her the opportunity to deal with a wide and varied cross section of society! It was this invaluable experience which gave her the ability to relate to just about anyone.

With a keen interest in human rights and how society works she went on to study for a BCL in which she majored in Law and Sociology. In 2013 she embarked on a part time Masters (LLM). She is a passionate advocate for those who are facing homelessness due to the housing crisis here in Ireland. She wrote her Dissertation on the socio- economic right to housing and how such a right could be embedded into the Irish Constitution!

She has completed a Graphic design course which she enjoyed immensely. Brigid has joined us to head up the cleaning and maintenance dept.

Is your pet insured?

Just as having your pet microchipped can be invaluable if your pet goes missing, so pet insurance can be a real lifesaver for the unexpected vet bill! Recent advances in veterinary medicine have meant that treatments that were unimaginable just a few years ago are now a reality. Diagnostic procedures such as MRI scans are increasingly routine, and surgical procedures such as cataract removals and hip replacements are commonplace.

On a daily basis we see the heart wrenching decisions some of our clients face regarding the treatment of their pets, but with appropriate pet insurance, we can hopefully ensure that any treatment decisions are made on the basis of need rather than cost. Don't take the risk – get your pet insured today!

Welcome to Primrose Hill Vet Hospital



We are now offering general practice appointments from 8.30am on weekdays.

We were 'Itching' to fix Tilly's allergies

Tilly is a six year old Cockapoo who loves life and is full of boundless energy and fun. She has a very active lifestyle and always looks her best.



She developed a problem with intensely itchy skin early on in her life and would spend hours licking her feet. She suffered from recurrent ear and skin infections requiring antibiotics and corticosteroids on numerous occasions. Trips to the groomer's would make her skin even more itchy.

Itchy skin is most often caused by flea allergies, food sensitivities or atopic dermatitis. The intensity of itching can severely affect quality of life for some of our pets.

Tilly was treated monthly with a veterinary approved anti-parasitic flea and mite treatment, always a good idea for any dog who likes to be seen out and about in town and parks. *She was still itchy.*

Tilly went on a food trial to see if her itch was related to a food sensitivity. *She was still itchy.*

Tilly suffers from Atopic Dermatitis, an allergic condition causing itchy skin. Tilly had a blood test run to help identify what she might be allergic to. The blood test showed that she had very high antibody levels to grasses, trees, weeds and indoor allergens. She was negative for antibodies to flea saliva. Corticosteroids controlled her itch but these medications are not ideal for young dogs, all year round. What was a girl to do when she had allergies to indoor and outdoor environmental allergens that could not be avoided?

Tilly's itchy skin is no more. She receives a monthly allergy injection and is fed a diet rich in essential fatty acids. Tilly started Cytopoint® injections two years ago and has not needed an antibiotic or corticosteroid once since then. The monthly injection has a wonderful safety profile, can be used in young and old dogs and in dogs already on other medications. Tilly's prescription diet increases the lipid in her skin and keeps her epidermal barrier intact.

No more red, sore skin or constant licking of her paws or shaking her ears. The right balance of diet and medication has Tilly in tip top form all of the time.

Be worm aware!



Many people believe that if their pet had worms they would know. We might expect them to be a bit poorly and lose weight, or maybe have diarrhoea, dry coats, pot bellies or itchy bottoms. But most adult animals can be carrying worms with very few or no symptoms at all!

So what are the major types of worms that we need to be aware of?

Roundworms are most commonly found in young animals but can infect adults as well. Many pups and kittens are born infected with roundworms because they cross the placenta and are also in the milk. Roundworms look like long strings of spaghetti but are usually only seen if there is a heavy burden or you give your pet a dewormer. Adult roundworms shed eggs which are passed out in your pets faeces and infect the environment. The eggs become infective within a few weeks and pets can become re-infected by unwittingly eating the eggs, often whilst grooming. Additionally the eggs can pose a risk to humans if accidentally ingested.



Tapeworms live in the intestines and shed small *mobile* segments that pass out in the faeces and are often found around the tail areas of cats. As the segments break down, they release eggs into the environment. These eggs may be eaten by *intermediate hosts* – these include **fleas** and **small rodents** such as mice and voles. As a result, tapeworms can be acquired via food (cats eating small rodents) or via swallowing an infected flea during grooming. Pets with tapeworms may not show any obvious clinical signs, meaning that they can be carried silently. Some animals will show failure to thrive, malaise and diarrhoea.

Lungworm: As well as being a menace to your garden, slugs and snails can carry lungworm (*Angiostrongylus vasorum*). Dogs are infected by eating slugs or snails carrying lungworm larvae, or even just eating grass that has slug or snail slime on it. Lungworm are swallowed as tiny larvae which migrate to the right side of the heart, where they develop into adult worms. Here they produce eggs which hatch out into larvae, which migrate to the lungs causing coughing. The larvae are then coughed up, swallowed and passed out in the faeces. Signs can range from none, to a soft cough, to life threatening bleeding disorders.



Regular prescription worming and flea treatments for your pet, picking up dog faeces, good hand hygiene, plus attempting to prevent your dogs eating slugs and snails, will all help to keep you and your pet safe. How often you should protect your pet depends on their lifestyle and habits – so come and have a chat and we can hopefully make sure they have a worm-free life!

Rogues gallery of worms!



Typical Roundworms
– in this case *Toxocara canis*



Tapeworm segments
– e.g. *Taenia taeniaeformis*



Electron micrograph of an adult lungworm
Lungworm photo: courtesy Bayer.

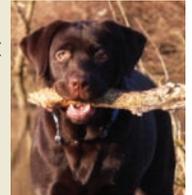


Spring into action!

With Spring around the corner we all look forward to some warmer weather and spring walks. With this in mind, here are a few seasonal tips:

Stick to balls!

We strongly suggest you avoid throwing sticks for your dog to chase. Sticks are innocuous looking things, but with the right speed and trajectory, they can become a weapon. Not only a weapon, but a breakable weapon that can leave foreign material behind in a wound some distance from the original problem. These are what are sometimes termed 'tip of the iceberg' type injuries and can cause massive damage and distress to all.



This is a typical stick injury where the stick has become lodged in the dog's throat.

Easter alert! With Easter soon upon us, chocolate and other tasty treats like simnel cakes and hot cross buns will start to appear in houses, so please be aware of the risks these pose. **Chocolate** contains the chemical theobromine and cakes can have **raisins** and **currants** in them. As with all poisonings, contact us at once if you are concerned.

Lily Alert! With Mothering Sunday on the horizon, be aware of lilies in flower bouquets. All components of the plants are toxic to cats and there can be a delay between cats ingesting/licking lilies and the kidney problems that follow.



Stay flea free! With the hopefully warmer weather comes potential for greatly increased flea activity! We recommend using an appropriate veterinary flea product for optimal control – please let us advise you on the ideal product for your needs. Fleas are very fast so just because you can't see them, doesn't mean they aren't there! Enjoy your springtime.



Can you pinch an inch?



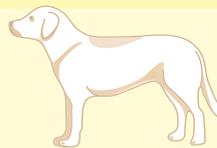
It's that time of year again where we jump on the scales with a sense of trepidation – and it's often no different for our pets! However, even without scales you can easily check your pet's body condition score at home. An ideal condition score for dogs and cats is described as "Outline of ribs can be easily felt through a slight fat cover. Waist can be observed behind the ribs when viewed from above. Abdominal tuck is present."

It can be very challenging for pets to lose weight, so *stopping* the scales going up in the first place is the key objective! We advise measuring their meals out every day, feeding a diet designed for their lifestyle (for example, neutered pets and older pets need fewer calories), keeping treats to a minimum and absolutely no table scraps!

However, if your best friend is already looking a little broad in the beam, we can help you. Why not book in for a weight clinic and we can give advice tailored to your pet and their lifestyle. Our top tips include: choosing a lower calorie diet, feeding from puzzle bowls rather than boring, ordinary ones and cutting back on treats.

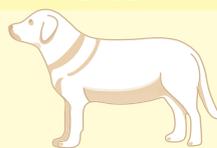
Carrying extra weight will leave pets prone to arthritis and diabetes, amongst other things, and may shorten their lifespan. So – if you are worried about your pet's weight, please come and discuss the options we have to help your pet slim down and reap the benefits of weight loss.

IDEAL WEIGHT



Outline of ribs can be easily felt through a slight fat cover

OVER WEIGHT



Ribs difficult to feel through a moderate to thick fat cover