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## Fleas

The flea is an ectoparasite and will feed on the blood of your pet. They can make life for you and your pet very miserable with a vicious cycle of biting and scratching.

The adult Flea - The flea hatches from the pupae into the environment and hops straight onto your pet for a feed. The female will lay eggs within 24-48 hours.

Flea Eggs - Female fleas can lay up to 50 eggs a day after 24 hours of feeding. The eggs will fall off into the environment wherever your pet goes. The eggs hatch in 1-6 days.

Larvae - The eggs hatch into larvae. The larvae will move away from light into dark corners and even under floorboards! The larvae stage lasts 5-11 days.

Pupae - The larvae spin into a sticky cocoon to become pupae. Pupae cannot be killed by any house insecticides. The flea may hatch out in 7-14 days but can lay dormant in the environment for months.

By the time you see fleas on your pet your house is probably already infested.

- ✓ Treat your pet with a product for fleas every month. It can take 3-4 months before immature fleas in the home are depleted, so you may still see fleas on your pet during this time.
- ✓ Treat your house with a household treatment
- ✓ Regularly Hoover your home to remove some of the flea eggs, larvae and pupae.
- ✓ Wash your pets' bedding above 60 degrees.
- ✓ Continue to allow your pet full access to all areas of the house as normal. That way, new fleas that hatch can jump on your pet and be killed.



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## The New Leptospirosis Vaccine (L4)

Vaccinations against Leptospirosis have been available for decades. Previous vaccines have only targeted the two most common strains of the disease.

In recent years, across the UK, Europe and USA new strains have emerged and in many cases these are more prevalent than the original strains. For this reason experts now recommend the use of vaccines that target four strains of the disease.

Here at Ikin and Oxenham we believe in providing your pet with the best protection possible. Therefore we now use the latest four strain lepto vaccine (L4). This means that when you bring your dog in for his/her booster vaccination we will ask you to bring your pet back four weeks later for another injection to ensure your pet is fully protected against the disease.

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## Milbemax®

Buy a box of four Mibemax® and get 25% off!

(One tablet will dose for an adult dog between 5-25kg, or a small/puppy dog up to 5kg)

An offer not to be missed!

## **Lungworms - know the facts**

### **What is lungworm?**

The lungworm (*angiostromylus vasorum*) is a parasite that can be fatal in dogs if not diagnosed or treated.

### **How is lungworm spread?**

Slugs and snails carry the lungworm larvae and our pet dogs will often eat these (whether it be on purpose or accidentally) whilst eating grass, drinking from puddles or just picking them up with their toys and this is how our pets can become infected.

### **Is my dog at risk?**

Younger dogs are more prone to becoming infected but all ages and breeds can pick up the parasite.

### **What are the signs of Lungworm?**

There are a number of different signs of lungworm that may also be confused with other illnesses. Blood testing and faecal sampling can confirm a diagnosis. Some signs are as follows...

- General sickness
- Breathing problems
- Changes in behaviour
- Poor blood clotting

### **How can I treat my dog against lungworm?**

Preventative products are available. If used regularly prevention is easily achieved. Not all worming treatments are effective against lungworm so check the product carefully. The product we have in the surgery, Milbemax®, is licenced to treat against lungworm when administered on a monthly basis.



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## **Contact us.**

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