

ARE YOU TAKING YOUR PET ABROAD THIS YEAR?

Be careful not to bring back more than you bargained for....

Approximately 100,000 pets travel abroad from the UK each year. There are diseases spread by some parasites in Europe that are not present in the UK and as more pets travel in Europe there is an increased risk of these diseases coming into the UK.



Heartworm is caused by a roundworm that is transmitted by mosquitoes. It is common in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean. Dogs, cats, ferrets and occasionally humans can be infected. The parasite is transmitted during a mosquito bite and travels through the skin into the one of the arteries of the heart. Once here, they can reach lengths of up to 30cm. Signs of heartworm infection include coughing, weight loss, reduced exercise tolerance and occasionally sudden death. Heartworm can be easily prevented by treating with an appropriate spot on at least 4 weeks before and during travelling.



Brown Dog Tick

Ehrlichiosis is a bacterial infection transmitted by the brown dog tick called *Rhipicephalus sanguineus*. This tick is common throughout Europe and is well adapted to living in kennels, houses and cars. The bacteria infect the white blood cells causing changes to the immune system. This can lead to wide range of symptoms including fever, weight loss, severe eye disease and bleeding disorders. Treatment involves long courses of specific antibiotics but the disease may be prevented with intensive tick control.

Babesiosis is a parasite transmitted by tick bites from common ticks including the brown dog tick. Babesia is common throughout Europe and causes anaemia, fever, weakness and red urine. Some dogs may be carriers for years before signs of disease develop. There is no vaccination for Babesiosis but the disease can be prevented with intensive tick control.



Leishmaniasis is a parasite that is transmitted by sand flies. Dogs are the major reservoir of infection and Leishmaniasis can also infect people. It is extremely common in the Mediterranean and Southern Europe. The disease has a long incubation period sometimes up to years. The disease can affect the skin, eyes, lymph glands and kidneys. It can also cause bleeding tendencies. Once infected there is no cure but symptoms can be managed with medication. Very recently a vaccine has become available. If travelling to Southern Europe it is advisable to vaccinate against Leishmaniasis and use fly repellents whilst abroad.

There are a number of products available that can help reduce the risk of pet exposure to insects and ticks and help prevent disease.

There is no one single treatment that covers all parasites and different products will protect against different parasites. We can recommend an integrated parasite control programme dependent on the countries being visited as well as advise on reducing the risk of disease exposure to your pet whilst abroad.



PET Travel Scheme Check List

- Microchip
- Rabies Vaccine
- Pet Passport Issued 21 days later

On return

- Tapeworm Treatment 1-5 days before coming back into the UK



Mount Vets advise having a travel consultation at least one month before your departure date as some of the disease prevention products may need to be started well before you arrive at your destination. Book an appointment to discuss your specific travel requirements or to find out more about vaccinating against Leishmaniasis.

And Finally....

Kathryn, our receptionist and David, one of our large animal vets are proud to announce the arrival of their first son, Rupert Henry.

Rupert was keen to arrive as Kathryn had yet to start her maternity leave! Both Kathryn and Rupert are doing well and David and Kathryn are enjoying the adventures of parenthood.

Congratulations from all of us at Mount Vets!



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