



TREMAIN VETERINARY GROUP

Treating your pet like one of the family

Advice Note 7.0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES ABROAD

Whilst travelling in Europe your dog or cat could become exposed to diseases not present in the United Kingdom.

What are the four most important diseases and actions you can take to reduce the chance of your pet becoming infected?

BABESIA

Babesiosis is a parasite found widely in Europe. It is transmitted by **ticks**. Dogs and very occasionally cats can become infected. Babesia invades the red blood cells and causes severe anaemia.

EHRlichia

This is another parasite found in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean. It is transmitted by **ticks** and affects both dogs and cats. It invades the white blood cells causing a variety of signs that can include severe weakness, lameness and meningitis.

Prevention of tick-borne diseases:

The most effective method of control is to reduce exposure to ticks by careful application of Frontline. The pipettes are satisfactory but Frontline spray will enable you to thoroughly protect the limbs where the ticks are more likely to attach. Alternatively Advantix, a combination spot-on treatment for use in **DOGS ONLY** protects against ticks for three to four weeks.

LEISHMANIA

This disease is found in Mediterranean areas of Europe. It is a parasite that affects dogs, occasionally cats and sometimes humans. Animals and humans can become infected when bitten by the **Sand Fly**.

It affects the white blood cells and immune system. A variety of symptoms may be seen, they can take several months to develop after infection has occurred.

There is no current treatment for Leishmania, only drugs that are able to reduce the effects of the disease.

Prevention of Leishmaniasis:

Pets should be kept indoors at dusk and dawn to reduce exposure to the Sand Fly. For short trips Advantix Spot-on for use in **DOGS ONLY** protects against Sand Fly for two weeks and for longer trips Scalibor collars protect for six months.

TREMAIN VETERINARY GROUP

Treating your pet like one of the family

Advice Note 7.0 cont.

HEART WORM

Heart worm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) is becoming increasingly prevalent in Southern Europe. It is transmitted by mosquitoes, affecting dogs, occasionally cats and very rarely humans. The adult worm takes 6 months to develop in the right side of the heart. Treatment can be difficult so prevention is important.

Prevention of Heart worm:

It is important that the first treatment is applied 1 month before travelling to areas of possible exposure. Stronghold is a spot-on treatment that protects against Heart worm for one month. Alternatively Milbemax, an oral medication, can be given. This also protects for one month.

If you have any further queries relating to the above diseases, please ask your Veterinary Surgeon.