



## SEASONAL PAW PRINT

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## Grass Seeds - The Summer Menace

Grass seeds have bristly arrow-like fibres that allow them to cling onto your dog's fur, while the pointed shape



makes it easy for them to work themselves into their skin. The seeds causing the most problems are those shaped like small darts, such as the foxtail grass seed.

These seeds have a very sharp point and a long tail, and will penetrate the skin of your dog with ease. The seed will work into their skin causing inflammation and the risk of infection.

The seeds can enter the nose, the eye and eyelids, ears and can burrow their way in between toes, pads, and even the armpit, which can result in severe pain and irritation.

### SYMPTOMS - WHAT TO LOOK FOR

**Nose:** May cause your dog to sneeze; itch at the nose which may be accompanied with a nasal discharge.

**Ear:** You may notice your dog scratching or shaking their head, they may rub the affected ear along the floor. They may hold their head at a tilted angle.

**Eye:** Your dog's eye will become inflamed and red often with discharge or watery eyes.



**Skin:** Your dog may be chewing and licking the affected area. Look for swelling, abscesses, and open draining sores.

**Mouth:** If a grass seed is swallowed, it can become lodged in the throat, this may present as a persistent cough, frequent attempts to vomit, they may have difficulty eating.

**If in any doubt always please call us on 5786965**

## PROTECTING YOUR PET

When you return from a walk you should always perform a thorough check of your pet; pay particular attention to the 'hot zones' which are:

- Between the toes and pads
  - In and around the ears
  - In and round the mouth
    - The "armpits"
    - Groin areas

Once you have checked these areas you should then groom the coat with a comb and/or fine bristled brush.

In long haired breeds it would be beneficial to have the fur in between the toes and pads, the arm-pits and ears trimmed or clipped back as this will enable you to not only see the seeds but also give the seeds less of a chance to cling on.



## TREATING BEE AND WASP STINGS IN DOGS

Some cats or dogs will try their best to catch bees and wasps but often get stung in the process.

**Symptoms:** Your pet may show signs of redness, swelling, rubbing/biting the area, and excess salivation.

**Warning:** If your pet has swelling around the neck/face affecting the breathing then seek veterinary advice immediately

### Tips on how to neutralise the pain

- Bee stings are acidic so to neutralise the pain you can apply bicarbonate of soda to the sting. Mix with a little water (three parts soda / one part water) to make a gritty paste
- Wasp stings are alkaline so apple cider vinegar / vinegar can be applied to reduce the pain. Take care not to get any near their eye(s).
- Wrap an ice pack in a tea towel, and if your cat or dog will tolerate it , hold over the swelling area for a period of 5 minutes followed by a five minute break then repeat.



## DEALING WITH FLEAS

Fleas are perhaps the most common parasites to infest our pets, and are certainly the most well-known. Most flea owners have dealt with an infestation at one time or another. In fact, for many owners, keeping fleas at bay can seem like a never ending, even unwinnable battle.

### About Flea Infestations

Flea infestations can begin in a number of ways. Your pet may pick up fleas from another animal, especially if it is an outdoor pet who may come into contact with all kinds of domestic and wild creatures. They can even catch fleas from humans. Although fleas do not live on humans, if you or somebody who visits your home has recently come into contact with an infested animal or environment then fleas might be brought into the home in clothing.



Older infestations can also resurface, as eggs can lie dormant for some time until conditions become favourable again.

If you see fleas on your pet or in your home, this is the most obvious sign that your pet has fleas. Unfortunately, an infestation is not always so easy to spot, especially as around 95% of the fleas will be eggs or smaller larvae rather than more visible adults.

If you suspect your pet has fleas, for example because he or she scratches a lot, then you can try inspecting their coat up close or using a flea comb. Alternatively, try looking in your pet's bedding or favourite sleeping spots for "flea dirt," tiny specks that look like coffee grounds and turn red if made wet.

### Preventing and Treating Fleas

Fleas are vulnerable to different things at different stages of their life cycle, so effective treatment should target fleas at every stage – eggs, larvae, pupae, and adult fleas. A variety of over-the-counter flea treatments are available.

Additional steps may need to be taken in order to prevent the infestation from coming back. Not all fleas will be on your pet all the time – far from it – and eggs in particular often reside in bedding and carpets. It is therefore usually necessary to treat your home as well as your pet, or else eggs may lie dormant for a while before hatching and kicking off a fresh infestation. It may also be necessary to treat your pet preventatively.





## THE HEAT IS ON! KEEPING COOL THIS SUMMER

As temperatures climb here are a few reminders on how to keep your pets cool this Summer



- Dogs really don't enjoy exercising in the heat – although they may enjoy laying in the sun for a spell. So remember to walk your dog early in the morning or late in the evening when it is cooler, not during the heat of the day. If you are planning an extended walk take plenty of water with you. Let your dog exercise at his or her own pace. Keep games of chase, fetch etc short.
- If you leave your dog during the day make sure that they have access to a cool shaded area and ensure that you leave extra water. I always leave two water bowls just in case one gets tipped over.
- Give your long haired dog a nice clip to keep them cool. Ask the groomer to trim the hair inside the ears and between the toes too as this will help prevent your dog from picking up grass seeds.
- Be aware that some road surfaces, pavements and sand get very hot and can burn your dog's pads. Your dog will not be able to tell you. Think ahead.
- Don't leave your dog in a car!!

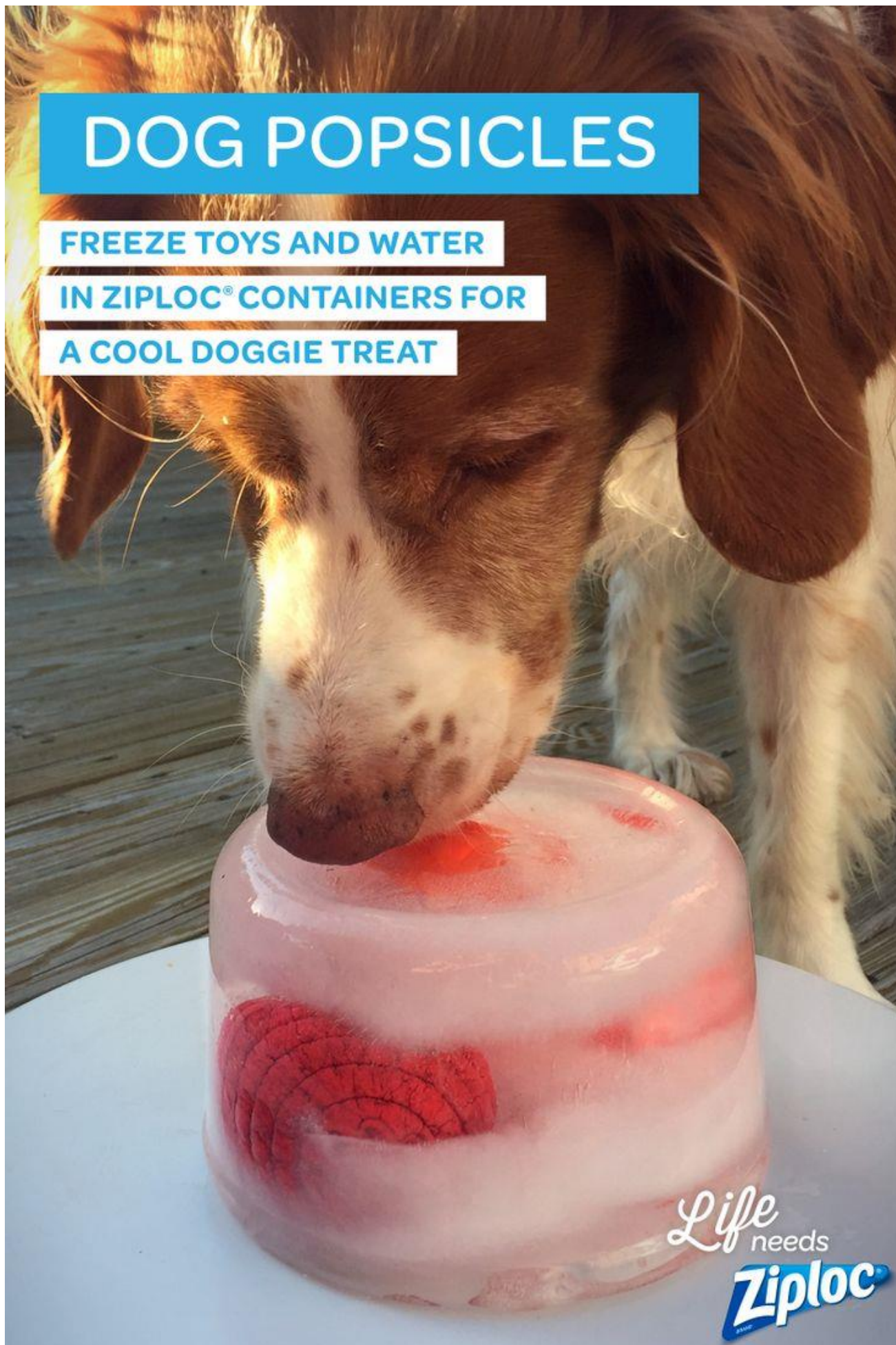


# DOG POPSICLES

**FREEZE TOYS AND WATER**

**IN ZIPLOC® CONTAINERS FOR**

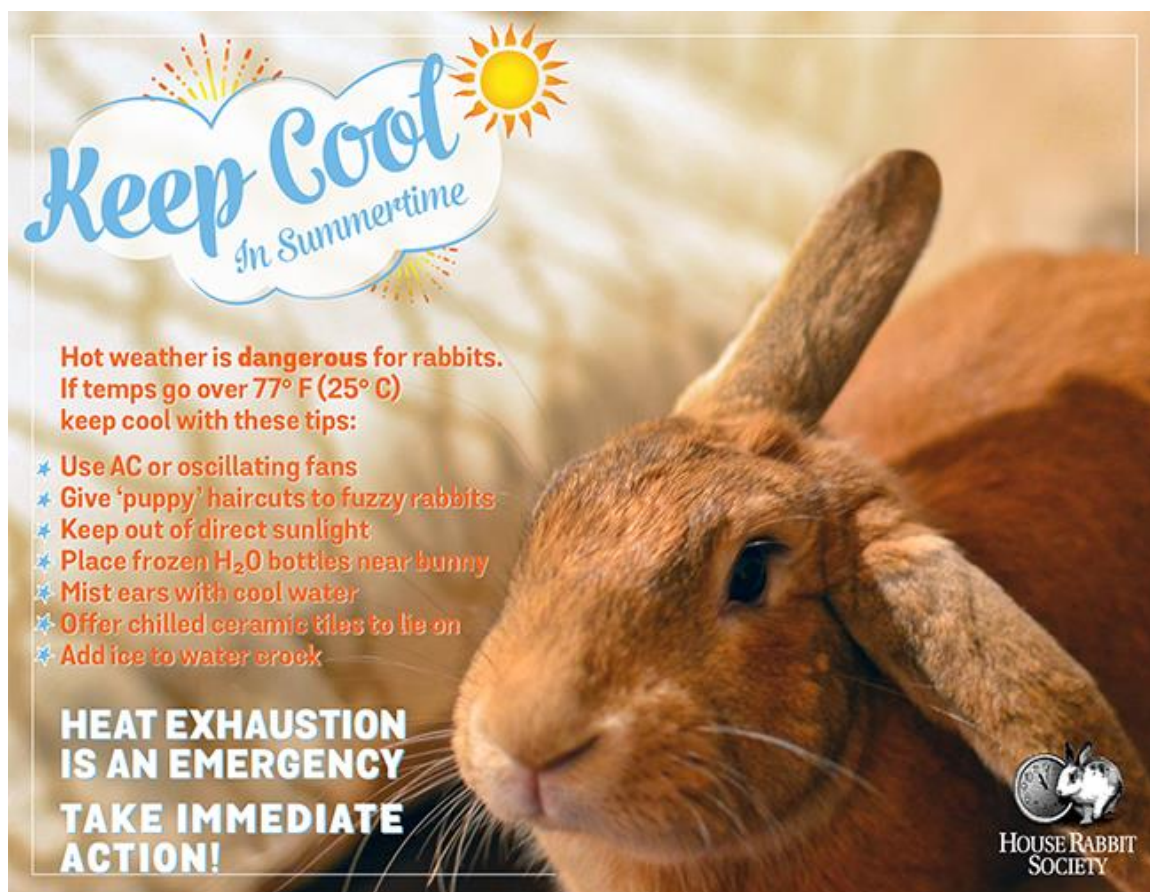
**A COOL DOGGIE TREAT**



*Life* needs  
**Ziploc**

**Rabbits** are not fans of the heat either. In the wild rabbits come out mainly at dawn and dusk. During the hotter, middle of the day, they stay in their burrows where, being underground, it is cooler. Guinea pigs originally come from the mountains of Peru where it is very cool.

- Make sure that your rabbits and guinea pigs have plenty of shade over their hutch and run and plenty of space. A gazebo or beach umbrella will provide a wide area of shade and let in a breeze. Hutches in full sunlight heat up very quickly and will be very uncomfortable for your rabbits and guinea pigs.
- Make sure they have plenty of water. Bottles are convenient but rabbits and guinea pigs drink more if water is provided in bowls – this is better for their health.



**Keep Cool In Summertime**

Hot weather is **dangerous** for rabbits. If temps go over 77° F (25° C) keep cool with these tips:

- ★ Use AC or oscillating fans
- ★ Give 'puppy' haircuts to fuzzy rabbits
- ★ Keep out of direct sunlight
- ★ Place frozen H<sub>2</sub>O bottles near bunny
- ★ Mist ears with cool water
- ★ Offer chilled ceramic tiles to lie on
- ★ Add ice to water crock

**HEAT EXHAUSTION IS AN EMERGENCY TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION!**

HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

**Cats** are sun worshippers and as long as they are not very old, very young or unwell, can decide for themselves when they have had enough. If you have a cat with white ears or nose then remember to apply sunscreen (pet sunscreen) to these areas as cats with no pigment in their ears and noses are at risk of developing skin cancer. We have Filta Clear in stock which is perfect for cats and dogs prone to sunburn.





# 9 COMMON CAUSES OF SKIN PROBLEMS IN DOGS

Source: Royalcanin.co.nz

Skin problems are among the most common reasons cat and dog owners seek veterinary advice. Being itchy due to skin problems can cause a lot of discomfort for dogs, and sometimes skin problems may also be a sign of other underlying health issues.

The most common causes of skin problems in cats and dogs are allergies from parasites like fleas, environmental allergies, and adverse food reactions.

## 1. Fleas

Dogs are sensitive to fleas and can develop allergies causing serious skin disease. Flea allergies can be quite severe, even if fleas are not seen on your dog. Pets with flea allergies are allergic to the flea saliva and become very itchy after being bitten. Use of flea prevention products under the direction of a veterinarian can help prevent itchiness associated with flea allergy dermatitis. As well as treating your dog, it is important to also treat the surrounding environment. As 90% of the flea population live off your dog, treating areas where your dog spends most of its time is important e.g. pet bedding, vacuuming the house if your pet is welcome indoors.



## 2. Mange

Mange is a skin disease caused by several different species of mites. Mite infections tend to be non-seasonal – they can occur all year round. Some species of mites are found in the skin and hair follicles. The signs of a mite infection depend on which mite is present and skin lesions can occur anywhere on the body. Demodectic mange tends to cause hair loss, bald spots and sores. Sarcoptic mange causes intense itch with hair loss, reddened skins and sores.



## 3. Ringworm

Despite the name, ringworm is not caused by a worm but is a fungal infection. It's also highly contagious and can spread to other animals and humans, so it's important to seek advice from your vet if you suspect your dog is infected. Ringworm lesions in dogs typically appear as circular, crusty bald patches. Treatment can involve medicated shampoo or oral medications depending on the severity of infection.



## 4. Food Allergies



Dogs can become allergic to the food they eat. Food allergies in dogs are typically to protein, with the most common offenders being beef, dairy, chicken and egg. Dogs with food allergies usually have very itchy skin on the face, feet, ears and around the anus. Some dogs may also have gastrointestinal signs of food allergy including increased bowel movements and vomiting. In order to diagnose a food allergy, your dog will need to be exclusively fed a diet that it is not allergic to for a period of 8-12 weeks; this is called a food elimination trial. The diet chosen by your veterinarian may contain proteins that your dog is not allergic to or a commercial hydrolysed diet, where the proteins are so small the body does not mount an allergic react to them. When

your dog is taking part in a food elimination trial, it is important not to feed it any treats or human food as this can interfere with the results.

## 5. Environmental Allergies

Environmental allergies are typically seasonal and occur in young dogs less than three years of age, are usually genetic and can be more common in certain breeds. Contact with environmental allergens such as pollens, grass or dust mites can cause intense itch of the face, feet, ears, chest and tummy. Adverse food reactions, flea allergy dermatitis, infection, and other causes of skin problems may have to be ruled out before the problem is attributed to environmental allergens. Environmental allergies can be managed with a combination of medications, medicated washes, environmental changes, and diets that support the skin.



## 6. Bacterial Skin Infections

Bacterial skin infections are often a complication when dogs are suffering from another allergy caused by fleas, their environment or food. They can occur when your dog scratches and breaks the skin allowing bacteria to infect the wound. Your vet will be able to determine the type of infection and treat it accordingly.

## 7. Yeast Infections

Yeast is commonly found on the skin of dogs, particularly in the ear canal, between the toes and around the anus. Dogs with floppy ears are most at risk, but all dogs can be affected. The yeast organisms are opportunistic; this means they take advantage to grow and infect the skin when the conditions are right. Infections can occur in high humidity (e.g. Summer), after swimming or as a secondary infection to allergic skin disease. Yeast infections cause itchy skin with hair loss, reddened areas and thickening of the skin. Skin lesions are usually accompanied by an offensive smell. Yeast is a fungus and infections are usually treated using ear ointments and medicated shampoos.



## 8. Dandruff



Dogs like people can get dandruff. Dandruff in dogs is usually caused by dry skin or skin irritation. The quality of food that we feed our dogs can reflect in their skin and coat. As the coat and skin are constantly being shed and replaced, the skin has a high need for protein. Feeding your dog a diet that contains high quality sources of protein is essential for healthy skin and coat. Diets that are high in omega 3 and 6 fatty acids, contain certain vitamins (e.g. B group vitamins) and minerals (e.g. zinc) have been proven to support healthy skin and coat in dogs.



## 9. Autoimmune Disorders

Sometimes skin conditions that won't heal are caused by underlying immune disorders where your dog's immune system attacks cells in its own body. Canine Lupus and Pemphigus are examples of autoimmune diseases in dogs. Skin lesions are usually severe with ulcerations and crusting, and your dog may be overall unwell. Your vet will be able to diagnose and advise treatment.



### Visit your vet

The causes of skin issues can vary widely. Only a veterinarian can diagnose, treat, and make nutritional recommendations for a pet with dermatologic disease. Nutrition can play an important role in management of all skin disease, in particular environmental allergies and adverse food reactions. Additionally, feeding a high quality diet can support healthy skin and help prevent recurrent skin disease in dogs.

Our veterinary dermatology range consists of specifically formulated diets that are designed to be part of the plan to manage your itchy pet and help make them feel incredible again. Occasionally, problem skin can be a sign of a food allergy which can affect our pets all year round.

## Furever Friends – Pet Cremation Service

Furever Friends is a local family owned and operated Pet Cremation Service operating in and around the Marlborough region. We understand that your pets are part of your families and are your loved companions. Being pet owners ourselves we know that losing them can be difficult, upsetting and at times overwhelming. We provide a professional, caring and stress free service for the after care of your beloved pet.

We offer individual cremation, which eliminates any contamination or confusion between pets' ashes. Each pet has its own unique cremation log number that will follow your pet right through the cremation process from the vets or your home and back to you. We can also provide a more person service with a home collection option.

Every pets' ashes will be returned in a black cardboard urn, unless you wish to choose from our beautiful mahogany and pine wood urn range that are hand crafted in New Zealand. We also offer an engraving service which we can arrange for you.

If you have any further queries please contact us on: 0277554935, [fureverfriendsmarlborough@hotmail.com](mailto:fureverfriendsmarlborough@hotmail.com), [www.fureverfriendsmarlborough.com](http://www.fureverfriendsmarlborough.com) or speak to us at the clinic on 5786965.

