



FOREST
Veterinary Centre

www.forestvets.com

**WILL YOUR PET BRING BACK MORE THAN
SAND & GOOD MEMORIES FROM ITS HOLIDAY?**

Since its inception over one million dogs have entered the UK under the pet travel scheme and some important information regarding your pets' health has come to our attention.

As you are aware the purpose of the passport scheme is to prevent the introduction of certain exotic diseases into this country - namely Rabies, the fox tapeworm and certain diseases transmitted by ticks. It is vital that this control system continues without interruption.

There are, however, other diseases / infections in Europe that are not present here and that are **NOT** protected by the current implemented strategies. Just as people who travel to certain foreign countries need to be vaccinated against certain diseases or take anti malaria tablets before, during and shortly after their holiday, it is equally important to employ similar tactics for your pet when abroad. Our major concerns include **Heartworm, Babesia, Leishmaniosis** and **Ehrlichiosis**. The incubation period for some of these diseases can vary from weeks to years following exposure and the symptoms can be vague and non specific. While it is not important that you remember or become familiar with each of these conditions individually, it is important to protect against them as even with prompt diagnosis and treatment they may still cause severely disabling or even fatal disease. It is far better to try and prevent these diseases being contracted.

A dog Leishmaniosis vaccination has recently become available. If you dog has travelled previously he/she will need a blood test first then 3 injections 3 weeks apart, followed by yearly boosters. The risks of picking up these diseases is reduced by the elimination, or discouragement, of the carrier organisms - ticks, sandflies and mosquitoes. Heartworm can be prevented by killing the juvenile stages of the adult worm with medicines such as Milbemycin oxime/Praziquantel. The simplest strategy for dogs would involve the following program:-

1. Begin Heartworm prevention before departure. This treatment must be continued as directed for at least one treatment after returning to the UK.
2. Before, and for the duration of the holiday regularly use a product that kills or repels ticks, sandflies and mosquitoes. Repellent collars can be used while you are away (e.g. Scalibor Collar).

One of the treatments could be timed to coincide with the official medication prior to re-entry to the UK (supervised and certified by a veterinary surgeon).

Please keep up-to-date with the Pet Travel Scheme requirements at:

www.gov.uk/pet-travel-information-for-pet-owners

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