

As most of you know, we lost one of our extremely fit and healthy 6 ½ year old Gordon Setters on Sunday 31/05/20 with Lung Worm. This in turn has set off a good response of other dog owners and friends to receive treatment for their dogs. It's worth knowing that there are several different lung worms that dogs can catch.

Fox Lungworm

Dog Lungworm

French Heartworm

Hedgehog Lungworm

Filaroides hirthi

And others.

There are also websites where you can send samples of your dog's faeces for testing, without the need to involve your vet e.g. (Wormcount.com) It's also worth knowing that blood testing alone by your vet does not cover all lung worm infestations in dogs, and some can be missed. We have completed one of these faecal test kits for our remaining Gordon Setter which was sent to Wormcount.com, and we have received the result of this test on 18/06/20. Unfortunately it has also come back positive. So our other 4 year old fit and healthy Gordon Setter has also shown positive with lungworm. Immediate action has been received from the vet and he will make a full recovery in a few weeks as it was caught early due to us sending off the faecal test kit.

If you have any concerns you should discuss this with your vet who will explain the different treatments for different worms, but please note, I mentioned treatments as there is no preventative for these parasites, and normal everyday worming tablets will not always prevent them.

Due to the coronavirus, neither of my Gordon Setters have been outside the village for months and could only have picked this up on walks around Kirkby Lane and Greengate Lane and back into Kirkby Fleetham Village. Even though we are now more aware of Lungworm being present in our area, this doesn't seem to be encouraging people to pick up after their dogs and disposing of the bagged up faeces. This lack of action is seriously putting other dogs in danger of picking up these parasites.

These bags can be opened by foxes and other wildlife, where any parasites will be passed on further. Please do the right thing. Bag it and bin it. Thank you.

Slugs and snails all have the potential to carry the dangerous lungworm parasite. So when your dog rummages through undergrowth, drinks from puddles, eats grass, or generally sniffs around outside; they can end up eating these slugs or snails or even digesting the slime, either accidentally or on purpose. Also any contact with the slime trail in outdoor food and water bowls, even over toys left out in the garden, can be enough to cause infection too. Unlike many diseases, however, lungworm is not actually passed directly from dog to dog. The worm needs slug and snail hosts in order to grow and develop, and it's from eating these that infection may occur, then by the dog passing larvae in its waste. So the more infected slugs and snails eaten, the more likely disease is then rapidly spread within dog communities.

The following was taken from the Kennel Club website - If you spot slugs and snails in your garden or Local Park, be extra vigilant when out walking your dog. Always pick up and safely dispose of your dog's faeces, and consult your vet as soon as possible if your dog becomes unwell. Please be aware that slug pellets are toxic to dogs. It is possible to purchase organic/safe slug pellets for your garden. I will end by saying that my dogs had no interest in slugs or snails. The only thing I can think of that could have caused this infestation is that they would both eat grass whilst out on their walk. It was so easy to get, and even easier to spread.

**So please, please, please pick up all your dog's waste.**

Bev Linsley

Kirkby Fleetham