



Scottish Charity
No SC014924

Incorporating **THERAPET**®

**81-85 Portland Street
Edinburgh
EH6 4AY**

Tel: 0131 553 0034

Email: admin@canineconcernscotland.org.uk

Website: www.canineconcernscotland.org.uk

Celebrating 30 years of service in 2018

KEEPING YOUR THERAPET HEALTHY - CATS

The Therapet is almost by definition going to meet and bring comfort and happiness to people who are not in the best of health and whose immune systems may be weak either through disease or in some cases because of the treatments which they are receiving.

It is the duty of every Therapet owner to ensure that their Therapet is in the best of health and not going to take germs into the environment of those we are visiting. We must also be able to convince the authorities in charge of hospitals, homes or schools that we have taken every precaution to ensure that our Therapet is safe and can only bring benefits to those whom we visit.

Canine Concern Scotland would like to ask all Therapet owners to take the following health precautions.

- **Annual Health Check.** We would like all Therapets to have an annual check-up by your local vet. Be sure to tell your vet that your cat is a Therapet and ask your vet's advice as to what vaccinations your Therapet would require and what precautions your vet would advise considering that your Therapet would be in contact with vulnerable patients. We would recommend that all cats should be vaccinated against Feline Upper Respiratory Infections (Cat Flu). It would also be advisable to consider Feline Panleucopenia (Enteritis) and Feline Leukaemia.
- You should in particular ask your vet to check for any signs of ear, eye, nose or mouth infections and ensure that the coat is clear of any signs of skin disease. Remember these are the parts of your Therapet which the patients you are visiting will make direct contact with.
- Deworming every 3 months for both Tapeworms and Roundworms. When Therapets are visiting situations where they are in contact with children deworming should be undertaken monthly
- **Skin Parasites.** We would recommend topical applications (Spot Ons) to control fleas and any other common skin parasites. the more comprehensive the better. All pet owners must ensure that their Therapet is free of fleas. Cats should be groomed before each visit and nails should be kept short. Ask your vet to advise a suitable length for nails and how often they should be trimmed or filed
- Regular dental checks to stop smelly breath, and to reduce the chance of infection spreading from an infected cat's mouth to a human patient.
- Regular ear checks since even a mild, early ear infection can be painful if someone pats the head or rubs the ears. Some chronic ear infections can contain bacteria which might spread to humans. If your Therapet has had an ear infection ask your vet to give you an assurance that there is no risk of an infection being left after the ear inflammation has cleared up.
- All Therapets who are unwell should be withdrawn from duties until back to normal, or until professionally cleared if veterinary treatment was required. Therapet owners should not visit if they are unwell.
- **Raw Meat Diets.** Volunteers should be aware that diets which include uncooked bones or raw meat may rarely contain bacteria or parasites which might pass to your Therapet and even more rarely to the people you are visiting. For this reason the policy of the Trust is that Therapets should not be fed on diets containing raw meat.
- Also cats who are hunters when outdoors would not be deemed suitable as we must assume that they will eat their prey.

July 2018

Trustees:

I Allan Sim BSc CA,(Chairman), George Leslie BVMS, James Macdonald,
Dr Valerie J Marrian MBChB FRCP FRCPE DCH, Norma Murray, A Douglas Ruthven BEM FRSC,
Lynsey G Thomson BSc(Hons) OT, Diane Wood Dip RMS, Simon W Young BA(Hons) MBA
CEO/Secretary/Treasurer: Nicholas P Henley Price