



**BRAVECTO®**

1 Tasty chew

12 Weeks tick & flea protection

0 Worries

12 WEEKS 00 DAYS 00 HOURS

MSD Animal Health

## DIY PET SHIRT BED

### You will need:

- A large sweater or jersey
- A square pillow
- Stuffing
- One lucky dog or cat
- A pair of scissors
- String and needle

Stuff sleeves and shoulder/collar area of the sweatshirt.

Insert pillow through the bottom of the shirt.

Stitch the end of the sleeves together.

Attach pillow "ring" (any piece of material can be used) to the bottom of the bed with a few stitches.

Then finally, watch how your furry friend warms up on his/her new bed.



How To: SWEATSHIRT PET BED



# WINTER WELLNESS

AS SPECTACULAR AS OUR WINTER WEATHER IS, IT CAN BE TOUGH ON OUR PETS. BY DR DONNA BROOK

Winter is my favourite season, with beautiful calm cloud-free days between fierce cold fronts that sweep across our 'Cape of Storms'. But it can be tough on our pets. So ensure that they always have protection from the elements, particularly as the combination of rain and wind can cause a rapid drop in your pet's body temperature. Young and geriatric pets are most susceptible to hypothermia, but small breed and short-haired dogs as well as those with little body fat also lose body heat easily. Remember dogs and cats have a higher normal body temperature than you do- so if you are feeling cold, then your pet probably is too!

Many people are under the mistaken impression that they do not need to give their pets tick and flea remedies during the winter months. That could not be further from the truth. Although the fleas may not be as active

during the winter, it does not mean they are gone. Our tendency to heat our homes in winter creates perfect conditions for fleas, which thrive at an ambient temperature of between 20 and 30 °C (although they can survive at -1°C for five days, so don't be too complacent if you don't have the heaters turned up).

You may not notice one or two fleas on your pet, but adult fleas account for less than 5% of the flea population in an environment. Each adult female flea lays about 50 eggs daily, which fall off your pet and hatch into larvae in the environment. The tiny larvae live in your pet's bed, the carpet or in cracks in flooring, eating organic material like dried flea dirt. They then spin a cocoon and can lie dormant like this for more than a year, ready to hatch as adult fleas as soon as conditions are right. And once hatched, a flea can live more than 3 months (producing as many as 2000 eggs during that time!) Because of this complicated life-cycle, it takes a few months of continuous treatment to bring a flea infestation under control... and a few months of non-treatment for the problem to rear its ugly head again.

While fleas can carry tapeworm and make your pet itchy, scratchy and generally miserable, ticks can cause far more serious problems for your furry friend. They can transmit two potentially fatal blood parasites called Babesia (biliary fever) and Erlichia (tick bite fever) to dogs. Babesia damages the red blood cells that carry oxygen, causing anaemia and secondary liver and kidney failure, while Erlichia reduces the blood



clotting ability. Cats in the Western Cape can get feline biliary from ticks too, which also causes anaemia and often severe jaundice. Ticks like warm, wet conditions, so a warm spell during winter or early spring will see a sudden increase in these dangerous parasites.

Our TAH veterinary branches and vetshops stock a selection of safe tick and flea remedies for pets of all ages and species and our staff will be happy to help you select the right product for your pet. Application intervals are generally monthly, but our new Bravecto chewy treats for dogs work fantastically against both ticks AND fleas and only need to be given every 3 months. If that is still too frequent, consider a Seresto tick and flea collar (available for dogs or cats) that only needs to be replaced every 8 months- what could be simpler?

While you are buying your tick and flea products, why not take a look at our selection of winter jackets and beds to keep your furry friends warm and cosy through the winter months?



USE THE WINTER MONTHS to tackle potential tick and flea problems by doing the following:

- Wash pet bedding frequently.
- Vacuum carpets regularly and thoroughly to pick up the flea larvae and cocoon stages from carpets.
- Spray the inside of your vacuum bag with Frontline or put a flea collar inside it to kill any immature fleas it picks up.

## Furry Funnies

- ★ WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE CAT ATE A BALL OF WOOL? SHE HAD MITTENS!
- ★ WHAT DO CAT ACTORS SAY ON STAGE? TABBY OR NOT TABBY!

★ WHY DID THE POOR DOG CHASE HIS OWN TAIL? HE WAS TRYING TO MAKE BOTH ENDS MEET!

★ WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT RAINS CATS AND DOGS? YOU CAN STEP IN A POODLE!

★ WHAT IS THE CATS FAVOURITE TV SHOW? THE EVENING MEWS!

★ WHAT'S THE UNLUCKIEST KIND OF CAT TO HAVE? A CATASTROPHE!

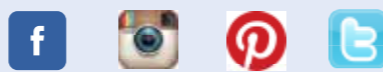
★ WHY DID THE SNOWMAN CALL HIS DOG FROST? BECAUSE FROST BITES!



- Bellville:** 1 Kontiki Rd, Glen Ive 021 91 911 91
- Parow:** 20 Frans Conradie Drv 021 939 7102
- Goodwood:** 107 Vasco Boulevard 021 591 2571
- Durbanville:** 16 Plein Street 021 976 3015
- Sonstraal Heights:** 10 Verdi Boulevard 021 975 1870
- Kenridge:** 78 De Bron Ave 021 914 0886
- Somerset West:** Bright St, Audas Est 021 851 5739
- Darling:** 17 Main Rd 022 492 2545
- Moorreesburg:** 26 Langstraat Tel: 022 433 4883

"Where pets have been first for more than 50 years"

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# 20 YEARS AT TAH

## ACHIEVEMENT

Some of our beautiful staff members are celebrating their 20th year with us at Tygerberg Animal Hospital. It's been an absolute pleasure having you ladies as part of the TAH team, we look forward to many more years together!



MARYSIA

"TAH has become my 2nd family. I have built up many lasting friendships and have experienced much support and motivation over the years."



GLORIA

"I like that TAH has fair and honest management, and enjoy working with people – especially most of the TAH employers. It's a lovely working environment."



JAKI

"Being part of the TAH team has been an amazing journey from when I started as a relief for 3 and a half years until I took a permanent position at the Bellville branch. TAH has world class veterinary medicine, as well as care and compassion. I love being part of the growing TAH family, especially my Bellville reception team and all who work there."

## WHAT EXACTLY IS A MICROCHIP?

Micro chipping your dog or cat is a permanent form of identification ensuring that he or she can be identified and reunited with you, if ever lost.

- A microchip is a permanent ID inserted into your pet that causes no harm.
- Microchips are the size of a grain of rice and are inserted within seconds.
- Your pets will feel a slight pinch but no lasting pain thereafter.
- Your pet will have a unique number connected to your contact details.
- All veterinary hospitals and shelters will have scanners to identify a chipped pet.
- You can update your contact information at no extra cost.
- Any of your pets or livestock can be microchipped. (Birds, rabbits, horses, cows and reptiles.)

**Microchipping** is a form of permanent identification where a small chip is inserted under the skin between the shoulders. It is not a tracking device but will help those who find your pet to return it safely to you. The microchip can only be read at organisations that have the appropriate scanners. It is also required for certain documentation such as export permits, pedigree forms and pet health insurance. Many brands of microchips are available and your veterinarian will be able to discuss which would be best for your pet.



## WELCOME TO THE FAMILY, DR MIA!

**Name:** Mia Farr

**What year did you qualify?** 2000

**Did you study further?** No

**What did you do after qualifying?**

I worked in private practice in the UK for 2.5 years. Following that I worked in private practice in Cape Town for a year followed by 2 years in welfare. Then 7 years in private practice in Maun, Botswana.

Again 3 years in welfare in Cape Town. Locum work in Cape Town. With TAH Somerset West from June 2016

**Where are you originally from?** Somerset West, Western Cape

**What is your special interest in the veterinary world?**

Surgery but also alternative medicine such as acupuncture.

**What was your first pet, and what was its name?**

A cat called Spookie

**Do you have pets now, and what are their names?**

Many. 3 Dogs: Ruby, George and Amy all from welfare.

2 Cats: Smudge and Gemma, also unwanted pets

1 Horse: Ziard- Arab

**What do you enjoy? Other than being a vet?**

Outdoors, horse-riding, having fun with friends.



## COLD WEATHER TIPS FOR PET OWNERS

**Does your pet spend most of its time out doors? If this is the case you will need to ensure your pet has a shelter that will keep them dry and warm.**

Ensure your pet has a fresh bowl of water nearby the shelter so that they don't have to walk too far in the cold to quench their thirst.

In the colder weather your pets' dietary need may change slightly. Pets kept outdoors burn more energy to keep warm therefore you may need to feed them slightly more. Whereas pets kept in door save their energy by sleeping most of the time in a nice warm environment, therefore they might need a slightly reduced portion or be kept on their original diet.

When grooming your pets during the colder months, it is advisable to not cut their hair too close to their skin, rather leave them with a nice warm coat to help keep warm. Even if your pet gets to sport the latest fashion in doggy/ cat jerseys, a longer-trimmed coat will help hold in their body heat.

Bathing your pets during these chilly days may also become a mission for you, but don't feel too bad, less baths in winter time is actually better for your pets coat and skin.

Washing too often can remove essential oils and increase the chance of developing dry, flaky skin in our winter climate. Do not leave your pet outside in the cold with a wet coat, it is more difficult for your dog to maintain a warm body temperature when wet. Towel drying your pet will also help speed up the drying process.

Be aware of your pet's tolerance for cold weather, and adjust your exercise regime accordingly. You will probably need to shorten your dog's walks in very cold weather to protect you both from weather-associated health risks. Arthritic and elderly pets may have

more difficulty walking during the cold months due to painful joints, chat to the TAH rehab team about our warm underwater treadmill package. Longhaired or thick-coated dogs tend to be more cold-tolerant, however still at risk in cold weather.

Has your pet had his/her annual wellness exam yet? Cold weather may worsen some medical conditions such as arthritis. A veterinarian should examine your pet at least once a year, and it's as good a time as any to get him/her



checked out to make sure they are ready and as healthy as possible for the cold weather.

Warm engines in parked cars attract cats and small wildlife, which may crawl up under the hood. To avoid injuring any hidden animals, bang on your car's hood or honk the horn to scare any furry hitchhikers away before starting your engine.

If your pet is whining, shivering, seems anxious, slows down or stops moving, seems weak, or starts looking for warm places to hide, get them back inside quickly because they are showing signs of hypothermia.

Frostbite is harder to detect, and may not be fully recognized until a few days after the damage is done. If you suspect your pet has hypothermia or frostbite, consult your TAH veterinarian immediately.

Visit our TAH Branches and TAH Vetshops, to see a range of products aimed at helping your pet cope with the cold!