



ADVICE FOR NEWCOMERS TO ABU DHABI

A teal silhouette of the Abu Dhabi skyline, featuring various skyscrapers and domes, positioned horizontally across the middle of the page.

It is always a relief when your beloved pet arrives safely after air travel. However, there are a few other considerations to take into account on arriving in a country which may have a very different culture and climate to your previous home. Here are a few tips and suggestions which may help make the transition to life in the UAE easier both for you and your pet.



Settling into a new home

Arriving in a new place can be very unsettling for some dogs and cats.

Pheromone products such as 'Feliway' for cats and 'Adaptil' for dogs can be very helpful in this situation. They come as diffusers or spray and will help make your cat or dog feel more secure and less stressed in their new home.

For more information, please drop in to our clinic, where you can buy these products over the counter.



Climate

The climate in Abu Dhabi is very hot, especially in summer with temperatures rising over 40° C, and high humidity. We would advise you to walk your dog only in the early morning or evening during this time to avoid the hottest part of the day. Take plenty of water with you on walks and never leave your dog alone in the car. When leaving your pet(s) in the house during the summer, please leave the air conditioning on – the temperature should be as comfortable as you would want for yourself. Gardens should have a good shaded area and a water hose in the garden is also useful for cooling a dog down after a walk.

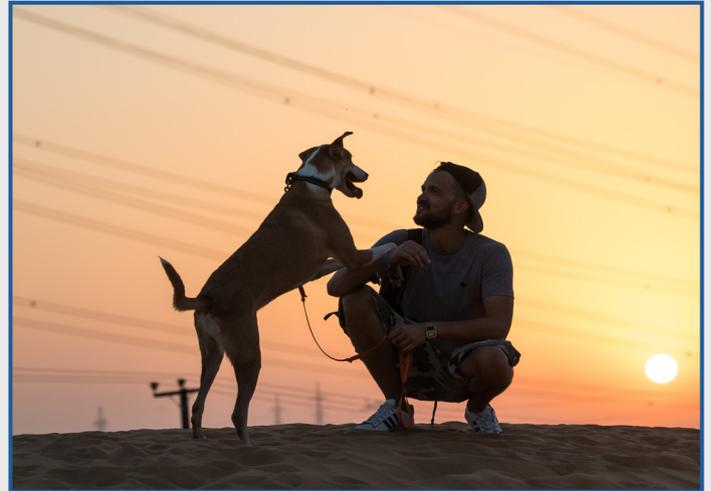




Heat stroke can happen very quickly so please take all precautions. If your dog becomes too hot and gets distressed on a walk you need to cool him/her down using cold water or cool wet towels, and take him/her to a vet as soon as possible. Cats can also suffer from the warmer climate and many people have both their dogs' and cats' coats clipped short during the summer months. We have seen so many pets feel much more comfortable and be more active after a shave or trim. We have a cat and dog groomer at German Veterinary Clinic so please contact us for more information.

Walking your dog

There are many suitable areas for walking your dog, but please ensure that it is pet friendly and we would advise to keep your dog on a lead unless in a secured, private area. It is a good idea to hose off sandy feet when home to reduce any irritation from the sand between the toes. Don't forget that sand also becomes very hot during the day and can burn a dog's footpads – another reason for waiting until a cooler part of the day to walk. If your dog has very sensitive pads, you can use small booties which will protect them in the summer heat.

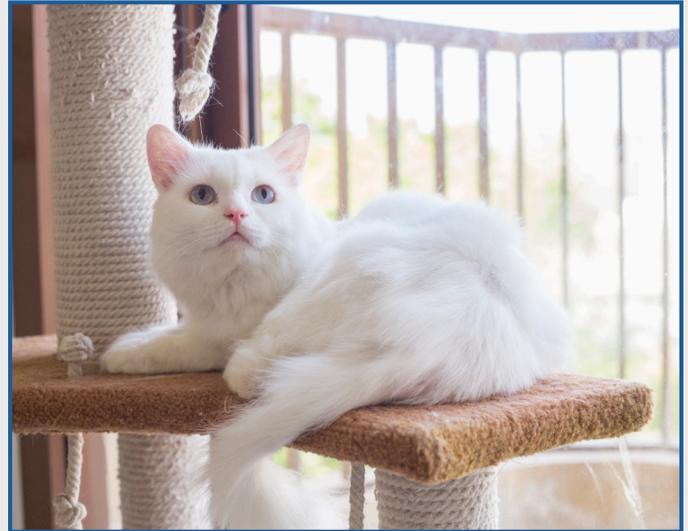




Letting cats outside

We have a large population of street cats in Abu Dhabi which can sometimes cause territorial problems and cat fights. There is generally no problem in letting cats out but if you are able to 'cat-proof' the garden or compound, this can help prevent straying or fighting and keep them safer.

We recommend microchipping your pet as well as registering their microchip number on a local database. Any lost cat or dog that is found will be checked for a microchip and can be returned to the owner promptly if their contact details are registered.



Water



Although we use bottled water for ourselves here, the tap water is considered safe for cats and dogs to drink. Due to the hot temperatures, plenty of clean water should always be available both inside and outside the house for drinking and also taken on dog walks. Some cats don't naturally drink a lot - in these cases specially designed cat water fountains or turning on taps in the house can help encourage more fluid intake. This is important to avoid dehydration. If your cat has ever suffered urinary or kidney problems it is especially important to keep them well hydrated. You can buy pet water fountains at our clinic.

Additionally, adding wet food into your pet's diet can significantly increase water intake.





Food

There are many types of pet food available in the UAE, however, we would always recommend a balanced and complete pet food suitable for your pet's breed, size and life stage. We carry a range of high quality pet foods as well as prescription diets for specific medical conditions.



Vaccines



A full set of vaccines will have been required to enter the UAE. These should be kept up to date annually as they will also be required to travel onwards. Regular annual vaccines for both cats and dogs are now also mandatory according to the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment. Most local kennels will require a Kennel Cough vaccine to be given before boarding. If you are travelling on to a different country please inform us as soon as possible so we can let you know if further vaccinations, boosters or blood tests are necessary.





Parasite control

Intestinal worms, especially tapeworm can be a problem here as many animals are not treated. Worming is recommended every month until an animal is 6 months old, then every 3 months thereafter.

Geckos can carry tapeworm larvae which is why even indoor cats can pick up worms.

Ticks in dogs is a massively growing problem in the UAE and there are a few tick-borne diseases (Ehrlichia, Babesia) that can be caught from them. Frontline is no longer effective against the majority of ticks in this country so different products are necessary to protect your pets.

“Advantix” can be applied to the back of the neck monthly, “Bravecto” can be given as a 3 monthly chew tablet or “Seresto” collars can be worn by dogs, which will protect them for up to 8 months. If you remove ticks from your pets, be careful not to leave the head behind.

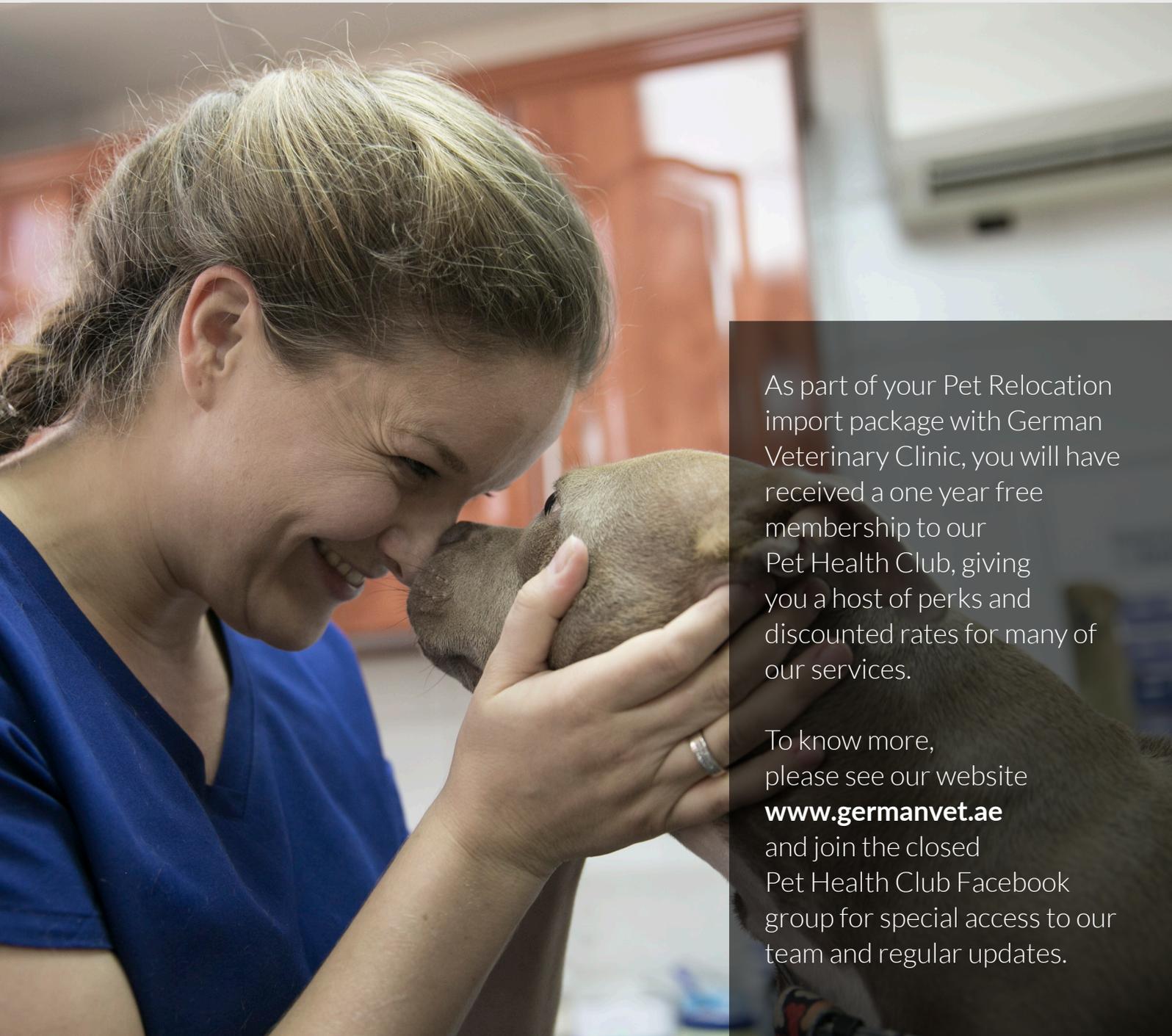
Fleas are not as common here as in other countries, but you should still check your pet regularly to make sure they are free from fleas.

Ear mites are very common here, especially in cats. You would notice very itchy ears with a dark brown waxy

discharge. They can be treated with a spot on treatment on the back of the neck. Please see us to determine the appropriate treatment for your pet.

Another common problem here, especially in cats, is **Ringworm**. This is not a worm but a fungal infection which can be transmitted to humans. The signs of ringworm include hair loss and scaly or scabby skin. Ringworm is not always itchy. Symptoms in people are usually circular red rings on the skin. We can check for ringworm with a special lamp or by fungal culture and it can be treated by oral liquid and medicated shampoos.





As part of your Pet Relocation import package with German Veterinary Clinic, you will have received a one year free membership to our Pet Health Club, giving you a host of perks and discounted rates for many of our services.

To know more, please see our website www.germanvet.ae and join the closed Pet Health Club Facebook group for special access to our team and regular updates.

If you have any health concerns with your pet or if you would like a general check up or advice, please call the clinic to make an appointment on 02 556 2024.

Finally, please follow our social media pages for frequent updates and news from German Veterinary Clinic.

f **@**GermanVeterinaryClinic

We hope you enjoy your stay in the UAE!

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