

Bonfire Night

As we head into Autumn, most pet owners will already be thinking about Bonfire Night.

Although this is an exciting time for many people, it can be stressful for animals. The loud noises, sudden bangs and bright lights can make your pets feel anxious and scared.



It is not just Bonfire Night itself either! People now seem to let fireworks off for many weeks before and after the event. Rather than simply putting up with it, it's worth finding ways to help your pets feel more relaxed when there is a lot happening outside. But what are some great tips to consider?

CALMING PRODUCTS- Pheromone plug-in diffusers, sprays and collars can help to build a calming atmosphere by emitting a comforting scent similar to the soothing pheromone that mothers naturally release to comfort their puppies/kittens. Supplements are also available.

BLOCKING OUT NOISE- It is often the loud noises and unexpected bangs fireworks bring that upset pets. Shutting windows and curtains will help reduce the noise, and reduce the impact any bright lights make when fireworks explode. Playing the radio or TV may help to mask the noise.

GIVING THEM FUSS- Just like humans, cats and dogs often want extra attention and reassurance when worried. This means giving them more fuss when fireworks are expected. Simply giving cuddles and being close to them will help show that there is nothing to worry about.

ADJUST YOUR SCHEDULE- Plan your walks to make sure your dog is indoors when any fireworks are likely. This might mean changing your routine to walk them earlier in the day and changing your feeding schedule to give your dog time to eat and go to the toilet before dark.

PREPARE YOUR SURROUNDINGS- Ensure all doors and windows are closed, as your pet may try to run away if they are scared.

CREATE A SAFE PLACE- Make sure your pet has a well-established safe space they can retreat to, make it extra snug and get yourself comfy too. Introduce this ahead of fireworks, so they learn it's a positive place to be.

TREATS- These may help as a distraction to all pets. Lick mats or puzzle mats as a long-lasting enrichment, may be a great way to occupy your dog.

IDENTITY- Ensure your cats/dogs are microchipped with correct registration details and contact information. If your pet were to escape, this allows them to be easily identified, and more likely reunited. Pet ID tags on collar's are also essential in case your pet breaks out.

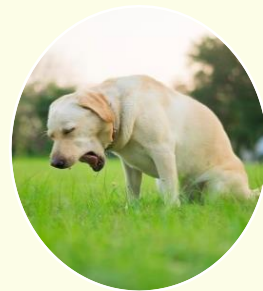
PLEASE NOTE- Some pet's really struggle to cope with their noise phobia's, even when making the changes above. If you think your pet may benefit from additional medication to help settle them over this period, please call to book an appointment with one of our vets.

Kennel Cough

Kennel cough is a respiratory infection that can be caused by different viruses and bacteria. It causes a dog's voice box and windpipe to become inflamed, causing the cough.

Most affected dogs will develop a dry cough that can sound like something is stuck in their throat or like the "honk" of a goose.

Symptoms of kennel cough usually take 3-14 days to develop and last for 1-3 weeks.



How do dogs get kennel cough?

It is easily transmissible and can be spread through airborne droplets from coughing, by touching other infected dogs or from touching other items and surfaces that have been contaminated by infected dogs (i.e. toys or bowls).

Is there kennel cough prevention?

You can get your dog vaccinated against the most common bacteria to cause kennel cough. If your dog spends a lot of time with other dogs i.e. day-care, it is advised to get them vaccinated against kennel cough. Some services for your dog, including day-care or dog walkers, will require this prior to taking on your dog. This vaccination can't guarantee protection against kennel cough, but it reduces the chance of your dog being affected.

Please contact the practice if you would like more information or to book your dog in for a kennel cough vaccine.

Autumnal Hazards



We love spending time with our pets in the fresh autumn air, but unfortunately this time of year comes with some unforeseen hazards. To help avoid an unnecessary trip to the vets, here are some hazards to be aware of to help keep your pets safe this autumn.

CONKERS contain poison called aesculin which can cause vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pain. Ingestion can also lead to intestinal blockages, which can be fatal.

ACORNS contain a chemical called gallocannin that is toxic to dogs and ingestion can cause liver and kidney damage. Signs of ingestion may include, lethargy, vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pain.

FALLEN LEAVES will eventually turn to leaf mould if not cleared away, which can contain dangerous mycotoxins.

ROTTEN FRUIT which has fallen from trees such as apples, pears and plums eventually ferment on the ground. These commonly contain poisonous ethanol, which can be very dangerous when ingested.

MUSHROOMS AND TOAD STOOLS (some) are highly toxic and if swallowed can cause liver and kidney failure.

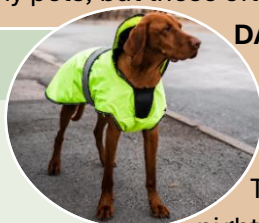
ANTIFREEZE (Ethylene glycol) is sweet tasting and palatable, but even in small quantities can cause severe kidney damage. Animals who have antifreeze poisoning may have symptoms such as vomiting, seizures, and breathing difficulty.

RAT POSION is commonly put down in autumn when rats start heading indoors for warmth. Whilst designed to taste nice to rats, unfortunately dogs like it for the same reason. The most common poisons contain anticoagulants which prevent the blood from clotting leading to internal bleeding. Signs of ingestion include, lethargy, paralysis and seizures.

HALLOWEEN SWEETS are a tempting treat for many pets, but these often contain xylitol which is poisonous to dogs.

Star Patient Award

This season's star patient goes to 'Ginny', the 3-month-old Boxer puppy.



Ginny visited the practice after her paw was accidentally stood on by a pony! During her initial exam with vet Amy, Ginny did not want to weight bare on the foot and was holding it up. Due to her presentation and age, it was decided to admit her for radiographs to assess if any damage had been caused to her bones and/or growth plates.

X-rays were taken which showed that Ginny's growth plates were still intact, But... She had fractured her metacarpals on digit 3&4. Luckily, the bones were not displaced and there were no fragments floating around! In order for the toes to heal, the fractures would need to be stabilised.

To help stabilise and encourage the union of the fracture naturally, a support bandaged was applied. Ideally, the bandage would be kept on for a minimum of 6 weeks, with a dressing change very week, however Ginny had other ideas... Unfortunately, bandages and puppies aren't always a match made in heaven, so after 2 weeks Ginny was bandage free. Strict rest and minimal exercise were the way forward, a puppy owners' worst nightmare!! 6 weeks post-accident, Ginny will be re x-rayed to monitor how the fracture is healing.

So far, Ginny has been recovering very well from her accident.



DARKER NIGHTS can reduce your pets ability to be seen, with road traffic accidents more common during this time of year. Consider keeping your cat inside during the morning and evening rush hours. To ensure that you and your dog(s) are visible at night, it's important to take precautions to ensure everyone stays safe. Reflective leads, collars and Hi-Viz vests are a good idea to help you become more visible to vehicles on the road.

CHOCOLATE may be more accessible to pets during Halloween but this contains Theobromine, a product of cocoa, which is highly toxic to dogs.

FIREPLACES AND CANDLES may look like a cosy place for your cat to curl up next to and have a nap, please ensure that your cat is not left unattended with either as they may burn themselves.

Laser Therapy

Laser therapy works by directing infra-red radiation into inflamed and damaged tissues to accelerate the body's natural healing process.



Conditions such as; osteoarthritis, back disorders/pain, sprains/strains, wounds, skin disorders, and much more can be effectively managed with laser. It is compatible with any other treatment your pet may need including medication, hydrotherapy and physiotherapy. Every session is tailored to your pet, with the frequency and number of sessions required depending on their condition.

Laser therapy is pain free, non-invasive and safe. It is tolerated very well. In fact most patients enjoy their sessions. Sessions are carried out by our consulting nurses, Kat, Nina, Freya, Ellie and Vic. Please call the practice for more information.