



in Your Home?

Lockdown certainly had its challenges and with more time on our hands, some learned new skills like baking, decorating and even knitting! There were those too who had always longed for a dog to love, cuddle and care for, and some became pet owners for the very first time. The companionship and affection that a pet can give is just amazing, and during our troubled times these new pets became lifesavers for many people.

Dogs just love our company!

If your dog was pre lockdown, please allow time for your pet to readjust to being on their own again as your life returns to normality. Remember, it is a big change for them too, so please be patient! If your puppy, young or rescue dog was acquired during lockdown, he or she may not have actually experienced 'being left alone', so gradual training and tolerance will be required.

Some pets may show signs of what we call 'separation anxiety'.

Your pet has become dependent on the presence of a person or people at home and when they leave, the fear of separation is just too much. Anxiety may cause your dog to display destructive behaviour such as ripping cushions and flooring, chewing woodwork or sofas, toileting indoors, howling, whining..... **but this is not the dog's fault.**

The behaviour displayed can be misunderstood as 'bad or naughty behaviour', but there is an underlying cause. Your pet may also show signs including depression, excessive panting, agitation or loss of appetite.

Humans can talk through their worries, but our pets show their feelings through behaviour, like wagging their tail when they are happy!

Wasp Stings Apples on the ground may have wasps inside feeding on the fruit. Our pets cannot resist snapping, pawing and chasing wasps, which can result in a nasty, painful sting! **Swelling, particularly around the face or mouth, drooling, difficulty breathing or collapse,** then do not delay in calling us, as some cats and dogs can be allergic to stings.



Help is available

Discussing the behavioural difficulties will be the first step forward to resolving the problem, so please do call us! If you are a first time pet owner, it may seem a bit daunting, but our experienced team are here with lots of advice on caring for your pet whether it is behavioural, flea treatments, vaccinations, or even cleaning their teeth. We are here to help your pet enjoy a healthy, happy and loving life with you!

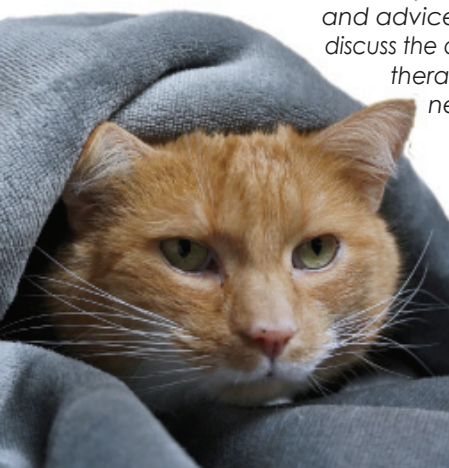
Firework Fright!

The season of loud bangs, whizzes and screeches doesn't affect some dogs or cats, but for others, firework sounds create a fear that is so distressing for animals, and equally upsetting for their owners to see.

Advance preparation is the key!

The aim is to build a calming and relaxed environment for your pet to help combat Firework Fright. **Remember remember the 5th of November.....we are here to help!**

Please do call us well in advance of the firework season. We have plenty of help and advice, and can discuss the appropriate therapy for your nervous pet.



Create a safe haven indoors

some weeks before it all kicks off! Happily and gently encourage your pet to visit their 'go to safe space', so they become familiar with the surroundings. Ensure entry/exit is easy, cover any windows and place inside favourite toys, blankets, an item of clothing holding your scent, food, water and treats.

Pheromone plug-in diffusers can help build a calming atmosphere by emitting a comforting scent similar to the soothing pheromones produced by nursing animal mums to babies. Sprays and collars are also available, or you maybe interested in the range of media products based on the theory to gradually **desensitise your pet to loud noises.**

Comforting your pets when they are scared is only natural, but **sometimes this can reinforce their worry.** Play a gentle game or music to mask the outside noises along with offering treats and happy cuddles.

Always keep pets indoors as it protects against misuse of fireworks. Do not walk your dog during fireworks....if suddenly scared it can cause a dog to bolt. Ensure your pet is microchipped and the details are current! Identifiable lost pets are much easier to reunite with owners. **Please call for more information.**

Hours

The Veterinary Hospital
Hungerford

01488 683999

Mon to Fri 8am - 6pm

Sat 8.30am - 12.30pm

Belmont Veterinary Clinic
Pewsey

01672 563413

Mon to Fri 8.30am - 6pm

24/7 Emergency

01488 683999

Two are Always Better than One!

Imagine sitting all on your own in a hutch at the bottom of a garden. Sounds a very lonely and sad life to have to live..... doesn't it? Well this is actually how some rabbits spend all their lives - alone. Sadly he or she was bought as a single pet, but rabbits are naturally very social creatures, as in the wild they always live with other rabbits. If you are considering having rabbits as pets, two or more is best!

A neutered male and female pair should live well together.

Inquisitive~Active~Intelligent

Rabbits need to express their natural behaviour and love to dig, run, jump and play every day, so you must provide an interesting and fun life for your pets.

- ❖ **An earth pit** for digging.
- ❖ **Tree stumps**, twigs and suitable toys for playtime.
- ❖ **Encourage foraging** for food by scattering pellets in the hay, and by filling boxes or cardboard tubes.

We all like our homes to be comfortable and rabbits are no different! You will need to provide indoor and outdoor accommodation that allows them to ~

- ❖ **Easily stand up tall on their hind legs**
- ❖ **Lie fully outstretched**
- ❖ **Make at least 3 consecutive hops**
- ❖ **Turn around unhindered**

Visit www.rabbitwelfare.co.uk for full information on housing and outside run sizing. We also have plenty of advice here too on feeding and healthcare for your rabbits, so please do not hesitate to call us.

The main aim as with all pets, is to provide a loving and caring home so their lives can be happy and healthy. If you get it right with rabbits they will show their happiness by doing 'the binky', which is a jumping and twisting action when life is good!



Such a Wee Mite!

Late summer and autumn time conjure up visions of gathering crops and blackberry picking, but it is also the time when the troublesome harvest mites can cause major irritation for our cats and dogs!

The adult mite lives in plants and other vegetation, but the larvae (*Trombicula autumnalis*) are at the stage in their life cycle where they require a warm blooded host to feed from, and this could be your pet!

Harvest mites are..... orange/reddish in colour. Very tiny and only just visible to the naked eye. Active during the day in late summer and autumn.

The mites go for areas where the hair and skin are thin. Their small hook fangs then pierce the surface injecting a fluid that liquefies cells to enable easy feeding. The larvae continue feeding for two or three days, increasing in size and causing a considerable amount of itching and discomfort. As your pet scratches and rubs to ease the irritation, skin can become raw and sore, and crusty spots may develop.

Treatment and Prevention Products are available to deal with harvest mites and our vet will provide instructions for treating and helping to prevent or reduce reinfestation. During the season regularly check around the ears, face, under the chin, the mouth and areas of the body that have no or very little hair. **If you see your pet excessively scratching and nibbling or notice clusters of tiny orange/red flecks on the skin, call us for further advice.** There are many conditions that can cause skin irritation, so it is always best for your pet to be checked over.



A highly magnified mite. They are actually smaller than 1mm.



ANIMALS Our pets, make us laugh and cry. For some humans they are eyes, ears and daily helpers. They give love, cuddles, and most of all are our friends.

AGEING With regular health checks, we can help your pet adjust to 'the ageing process' so they can enjoy a better quality of life in their senior years.

BOOSTERS Regular vaccination protection against infectious diseases plays an important part in helping to keep your pets healthy.

BAD BREATH A sign that your pet could have dental problems! We can advise you on regular dental care to help keep their breath a little more fragrant!



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Belmont Veterinary Clinic
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