

## **We are rapidly approaching firework season!**

Firework fear and noise phobias are a common problem in our pets (at least 80% of pets are scared of fireworks). Think about how your pet reacts to loud noises, do they show any of the following behaviours:

- Cowering or hiding behind the sofa
- Trying to run away or escape, this can include digging up the carpet.
- Soiling in the house
- Restlessness, e.g. panting/pacing
- Barking incessantly

If they show any of these signs they might need help coping.

### What can you do to help?

**A few weeks before** build a den or hiding place so that your pet has a safe place to hide and feels comfortable. Build it weeks before in a room your pet usually likes to hide and make sure it is away from window. Covering the den with a blanket will help to muffle the sounds further.

**To prepare/before it gets dark** walk your dog when it's still light outside. This reduces the possibility of fireworks being set off and your dog becoming worried. Once all your pets are inside make sure that all windows, doors and cat flaps are shut, this will reduce the chances of your pet running off.

**During the display** ignore any unusual behaviours such as panting, shaking or whining. Often pets will pick up on their owner's worry which can make things worse. Provide distraction such as new toys or chews and close the curtains and put the TV or radio on to mask the noise of the fireworks. Try not to leave your pet alone whilst fireworks are going off and **do not** punish your pet; this will only make them more uneasy.

Using Adaptil® or Feliway® diffusers will help reduce your pet's fearful response to fireworks. Adaptil® is a synthetic copy of the natural appeasing pheromone the mother dog produces to comfort and reassure her puppies. It has been scientifically proven to help dogs cope in stressful situation. Feliway® is a synthetic copy of the pheromone cats leave behind after rubbing their faces against objects in the house; it helps comfort cats in their own territory.

Giving your pet Zylkene® will help reduce its anxiety, it contains a natural product, derived from casein, a milk protein. Zylkene® has helped a lot of dogs and cats during firework season. Start it at least 3 days before the event is expected.

Contact the surgery for more advice.



## **Nurse Clinics**

Do you want some advice about flea and worm treatments? Do you think your pet is overweight and want help with their weight loss? Or are their nails in need of a trim?

If so you can book an appointment to see our registered veterinary nurses, Rachel and Lorna, they can help you with these problems and much more.

Our nurses are happy to help you and your pet with any of the following

- ✓ 2nd Vaccinations
- ✓ Weight Clinics
- ✓ Diabetic Clinics
- ✓ Flea and Worm checks
- ✓ Puppy and Kitten advice
- ✓ Dietary Advice
- ✓ Post-operative Checks
- ✓ Removal of sutures post-surgery
- ✓ Senior Pet Checks\*
- ✓ Micro-chipping\*
- ✓ Nail clipping\*

\*a small charge applies, please check with a member of staff for more details.

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## **Chocolate Troubles**

There will be lots of chocolate and sweets around shortly with Halloween coming up so it's best to be aware of the dangers chocolate can cause for your pets.

Chocolate contains a product called theobromine, which is toxic to cats and dogs. The darker the chocolate is the more toxic it will be. If ingested chocolate can cause diarrhoea and dehydration, so make sure you keep the chocolates out your dog's way!

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## **Contact us.**

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