

Autumn Newsletter 2022

Welcome to our Park Issa Small Animal Autumn newsletter, we trust this finds you well.

Corona Update

Please note we are now welcoming clients into our newly redecorated waiting room so if you do want to come in from the cold please do.

We appreciate some clients may be vulnerable or shielding so if you still prefer to wait in the car that is absolutely fine but please remember to check in with reception with your car make and colour, or if you are on foot where you would like to wait. Some of our patients have also benefitted from avoiding the “waiting room wind up” particularly with our feline friends so if this is the case for your pet just let us know.



Masks, it's really up to you. If the vet or nurse you are seeing isn't wearing a mask and you would like them to please just ask we want to make sure everyone feels safe and welcome at Park Issa.



Out of Hours service

Please be aware that we have recently had to take the very difficult decision of outsourcing some of our out-of-hours service to Vets Now. In the event of an out-of-hours emergency please call our usual number 01691 670067. On most week days and alternate weekends the out-of-hours remains as normal.

You will then be told where the emergency clinic is being held.

Please note due to health and safety regulations our out-of-hours staff are unable to open the door to members of the public who have not called ahead.

Seasonal Hazards

With Halloween decorations, sweets and glow sticks please make sure such things are out of your pets reach.

Other autumn poisons to look out for are conkers, acorns, seeds from fallen fruit, toadstools and mushrooms.

Fireworks Top tips:

- Walk your dog earlier to avoid being out when fireworks are being set off
- Close the curtains and put tv or radio on to mask firework sounds and sights
- Make sure your cat or dog has a safe space they can retreat to this might be a crate covered with blankets and comfy bedding, toys inside or even a cardboard box for cats with some treats.
- Don't over reassure your pet; the more relaxed you are the better for your pet, they pick up on our fears too!

Night time walking

As the nights draw in please make sure you are visible to other road users, high viz and lights will help drivers to spot you.

Salt on the road: If the gritters have been out and you think your dog may have got salt on their paws please rinse off and dry them as soon as you get home.

Socialising your dog

We appreciate how hard it has been to get out and about and we are seeing a lot of nervous “lock down” dogs. We would like to encourage you to bring them in to the practice even if you don’t need anything. Our staff love to give them a fuss and a treat and help to lose the anxiety. If they are very frightened just tell us and we will keep our distance to build up their trust. You can just chat to reception to normalise the experience of coming in the vets. Hopefully with repetition and time they will start to enjoy getting their free snacks and realise we are there to look after them.



Insulate your rabbit’s enclosure

As the temperature drops our rabbits and guinea pigs will feel it too. Please make sure their sleep area is well insulated and has plenty of clean bedding.

Remember your rabbit needs vitamin D throughout the year so if it is a bright day is great to get them out in their run for short periods. Grass and hay should form the majority of your rabbit’s diet so it is great for them to forage for their own food. If you want to talk to one of our

nurses about rabbit nutrition we are always happy to help; give us a call, or book in for a nurse appointment.

If you need to bring your rabbit in to the vets they are much happier if they come with their friend so please do bring both in even if it is only one that needs attention.

We also advise you to make sure they have food available whilst travelling because rabbits need to eat continually.

Nurse Clinics

If you have been into our surgery lately you may have noticed our nurse clinic display board. We just wanted to highlight that there are lots of clinics run by our nurses. Much of our work is about preventative medication. We know it is a bit of a minefield finding the right flea and wormers, nutritional balance or sometimes getting some general advice as our pets age. We are here to bust the myths and give you reliable information to keep your pet’s healthy and happy. So please come in and have a look. You might be surprised by some of the clinics our nurses offer.