

WELCOMING JOSEPHINE

We would like to introduce you to our newest member of the vet team...

Josephine joined our small animal team at the end of September after spending some time doing mixed practice. She has been qualified for six years and has a keen interest in dentistry. In her spare time Josephine likes to cook and garden as well as taking care of her of her two terriers, Fudge and Morag.



LIFETIME CARE CLUB SENIOR WELLNESS PLAN

The Senior Lifetime Care Club offers an enhanced care plan tailored to your senior pets, providing more frequent vet check-ups and comprehensive annual testing. With a focus on early detection of common health issues, this plan is designed to keep your older pets feeling their best and enjoying a longer, happier life. The plan is aimed at any dog or cat over the age of 8 years.

What is included in the Senior Lifetime Care Club?

- All the usual benefits of the LCC scheme
- 6 monthly health check with the **Vet**
- Annual comprehensive blood tests
- Annual urine sample analysis
- For cats - yearly blood pressure monitoring

The cost of the adding the Senior Wellness Plan to your existing Lifetime Care Club Plan is £10 per month for dogs and £11 per month for cats.

(N.b you don't have to already be on the LCC to join the Senior LCC!)





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Autumn

Dear Readers,

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter! In this edition, we'll share tips on keeping your pets safe and calm during Bonfire Night, as well as strategies for avoiding the tempting Halloween treats.

We're excited to bring back our Antibiotic Amnesty scheme this November. Read on for all the details.



Firstly, some staff news...

At the end of September, we bid a temporary farewell to our Vet and Clinical Director, Rachel, as she begins her maternity leave. As of now, her little one hasn't arrived yet, but we can't wait to meet him or her soon! We would like to share the same sentiments for receptionist Lydia, who is off to have her second baby.

Speaking of babies, if you use our Kirkby Lonsdale practice you might have noticed RVN Gayle has been in for a few shifts after having her daughter Primrose. We can't believe it's almost been a year already! We have missed Gayle a lot and we are so pleased to have her back.



Fireworks & bonfire night

Bonfire night can be a really scary time for our furry friends, so we have put together a little help guide to ease the stress.

How do I know if my pet is scared?

If your pet is acting in any way different then that could be an indicator that they are scared, however these are the main things to watch out for on bonfire night:

- Involuntary behaviours such as trembling or panting.
- Pacing around or hiding behind the furniture (or on top of for cats!).
- “Inappropriate” behaviours - toileting in the house, chewing, barking, running away.
- Refusing to eat.

Be prepared:

- Ensure your pet’s microchip details are up to date in case they run away from home.
- Check the dates of nearby fireworks displays.
- Make sure all rooms that your pets have access to have the curtains/blinds shut.
- Ensure your pets are brought inside before dark.

How can I keep my pet calm during a fireworks display?

- Play some background music or leave the television on.
- Stick to usual routines and behave as normal, following your pets lead (e.g. if they ask for comfort, give it).
- Distract them with a fun activity such as a puzzle feeder or a game.
- Make a safe space for them to hide if required.
- Wait for a break in the fireworks to take dogs out to the toilet and always keep the lead on, even in your own garden.
- Leave clean litter trays out for cats, even if they normally go outside to the toilet.
- Use calming pheromones and supplements - speak to any of our vets or nurses for recommendations.
- Watch your pets around other pets/children, they may be less tolerant than normal due to fear and anxiety.
- Contact us if you usually get prescription medication or think you may need some.
- Most importantly - never ever punish your pet for being fearful.

If you would like more information, please visit PDSA’s pet health hub, where you will find articles on fireworks and safety.



Halloween

As well as bonfire night, Halloween can be frightening for some of our furry friends. Read on for some top tips!

Keep any lit candles away from your pets and dispose of any pumpkins before they go mouldy as this can make your pet sick

Keep sweet treats in a safe place where your pets cannot reach them

Walk early to avoid scary costumes and lights

Provide a safe space away from the door if your pet gets scared of the doorbell



PHYSIOTHERAPY

With a focus on senior pets we would like to introduce you to Megan Sullivan Physiotherapy. Megan is a freelance Physiotherapist who we work closely with and who also works at our Kirkby Lonsdale branch as a part time receptionist. Megan provides a personal and caring approach to physiotherapy for a whole host of pets. Around 4 out of every 10 dogs have signs of arthritic pain. Arthritis is a condition that leads to pain and progressive degeneration of the joint.

If you think your senior pet may benefit from physiotherapy or would like to chat about arthritis please contact the practice to speak with a Vet or pick up one of Megan's business cards from reception.

(Please note that a vet check may be required before any physiotherapy sessions can take place.)



Antibiotic amnesty

Antibiotic amnesty is a public health initiative encouraging people to return unused or expired antibiotics to pharmacies. This helps reduce misuse, combat antibiotic resistance, and promote safe disposal, all while raising awareness about responsible medication use. If you have any antibiotics left from unfinished courses, please return them to the collection points at both of our surgeries. Please do not use antibiotics without veterinary advice.