



LET'S 'CONKER' AUTUMN... a few seasonal hazards to be aware of.



HALLOWEEN can be a fun time for humans, but can be a nightmare for your pets. Sights and sounds can spook even the calmest of pets.

- Be sensitive to their stress level and safety.
- Costumes that change yours or your child's appearance can be scary for your pets. Let them investigate the clothing before you put it on.
- Unless your pets are placid and happy for you to do so DO NOT dress them up in the costumes.

- Be careful when opening the door to trick or treaters as your dog may escape.
- DO NOT let your pets eat the treats you have intended to give out to children.
- Also CAUTION with your pet eating the Luminous necklaces that children tend to buy at this time of the year! The chemical mixture within these necklaces is very irritating to their gums - commonly causing salivation, frothing/foaming from the mouth, vomiting and stomach pain. Although the signs can look dramatic, ingestion is unlikely to cause significant problems, but please do call us if you're worried or need further information.

FIREWORK SEASON IS NEARLY UPON US...

FIREWORK season is fun and exciting for us, but can be a frightening time for our beloved pets and with all the local bonfire / firework displays booked in for different weekends, this noisy period can last for well over two months. Most pets are scared of fireworks, especially pets that may already have fears of loud, unexpected noises.

Signs that your pet may be worried and frightened:

- Vocalisation
- Restless/panting/pacing/unable to settle
- Hiding
- Digging
- Defecating/urinating in the house
- Over grooming
- Trying to get your attention

Here are some helpful tips to help your animals through this difficult season:

NEVER take your dog to a firework display!

- Keep pets inside with doors, windows and cat flaps closed
- Walk dogs while it is still light outside, and try not to leave them alone during the fireworks
- Provide cats with extra litter trays
- Provide a den, or somewhere for them to hide and provide bedding or toys they are familiar with
- Draw curtains, leave lights on, and try to mask the sound of fireworks with the television or radio
- Try to provide distractions during the fireworks
- Do not punish pets, ignore any fearful behaviour and carry on as usual

We would not recommend sedating animals during this time, as this can often increase their anxiety as they become unsure of their surroundings.

Things that can help:

Nutracalm or Zylkene capsules.

These are natural remedies that help with anxiety. Ideally start 3 days before you think the period of fireworks may begin.

Adaptil and Feliway release an appeasing pheromone to reduce anxiety and stress levels. These come in a form of spray, diffuser and collar, and are more effective if started a couple of weeks before the event.

THUNDER SHIRTS – can also offer you a simple and very effective way of calming the most anxious of dogs. Suitable for indoor and outdoor use and designed as a full torso wrap-around to sooth and comfort by applying gentle compression to the key pressure points on their body. Available in all sizes to ensure a perfect fit for most breeds.

For further advice, or more information on these products, please contact your local practice on:

Lynton House, Woking - 01483 761096

Windlebrook, Bagshot - 01276 473516

Spinney Hill, Addlestone - 01932 853991



Food & Limited exercise

With fewer daylight hours, cold and wet weather, you may find that your dog does not get as much exercise as they do in the Summer months. Therefore, it is a good idea to monitor their weight and food intake, as you may need to reduce the amount of food that you give your dog, to stop them putting on weight over the Winter. Please speak with our experienced Veterinary team to see if there are any alternatives that can be made to their diet at this time of year.

Darker Morning & Evening dog walks

As you may be walking in low light or near darkness, consider using a **fluorescent jacket and/or collar**. You could also attach a flashing light to your dog's collar to make it easier to spot them in the distance.

Ensure they're wearing an **identification disc** and we strongly recommend a **microchip** (with up to date contact details) to increase the chances of being reunited should your dog go missing.

As you may have seen on our Facebook page recently, due to the correct use of microchipping, a lost dog was re-united with it's owner within 30 minutes of being brought into our Woking Practice. No family tears were shed that night - Thank Goodness!

Did you know?

MICROCHIPPING DOGS WILL BECOME COMPULSORY IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES FROM APRIL 2016.

What is Microchipping?

Microchipping is a simple safe and quick procedure. It can make all the difference in being reunited with your pet should they stray or go missing.

The microchip is the size of a grain of rice and the procedure, which can be carried out by your vet, takes only a few minutes and lasts a lifetime.

Why Microchip?

As well as ensuring your pet is wearing an identification tag, a microchip (with up to date contact details) will increase the chances of being reunited should your dog go missing. Unlike a collar that may break or a tag that might fall off, microchipping offers a permanent method of identification, so you can be safe in the knowledge that you have done everything in your power to ensure that if your pet strays and is found without a collar and tag, they can be scanned, identified and returned home safely.



Practice News

LYNTON HOUSE



Our Vet, Thomas Johnson, who was recently made Clinical Lead of our Practice has been providing career advice at local schools.



Congratulations to our Vet, Sophie Matthews, on her recent engagement to Patrick Dansie.

WINDLEBROOK



We're so happy that our Vet, Fernando Martinez, has now become a permanent member of the team.



Congratulations to our Nurse, Sam McLaughlin, who has recently refreshed her RVN qualifications.

SPINNEY HILL



Congratulations to our Nurse, Louise, who gave birth to twins last month - Katie and Oliver



Warmest welcome to our newest member of the team: Trainee Nurse, Rose Irwin.



To receive all of our latest news, advice, competitions and offers, please like us on facebook: facebook.com/lyntonhousevets

