

## Firework Fright!!



The firework season is nearly here! The early nights are perfect for displays but if your pet finds them frightening, then night-time can become a nightmare for pets.

We recommend starting a desensitisation programme several months in advance. Podcasts of firework noises are available free from the Dogs Trust website.

These should be played to your pets starting off quietly and building up the volume. Done correctly, it normalises the sounds for your pets and means they don't react to the real thing!

**So how can you help your pets on Firework night?**

**Tire them out!** Give your dog a really good walk and a big meal, both of which will make them sleepy. Also, make sure you keep the cat flap locked and that all your pets are microchipped, just in case they take fright and escape.

**Provide a den!** Animals feel much more secure in small spaces and it will help to muffle the noises – as does keeping the curtains closed and the TV on.

**Use Adaptil and Feliway:** These are calming pheromone products that help to reduce anxiety. They are both available as plug-in diffusers, best positioned close to where your pet sleeps. Feliway also comes in a spray that can be sprayed on bedding and Adaptil as a collar. Ask us about them and how they can help! Additionally, although we need to comfort our pets when they are frightened, it is important not to be too over-effusive because this can encourage attention seeking behaviour. The best time to praise them is when they are being calm and relaxed.

Finally, some pets simply cannot cope and they need sedative medications. If you think your dog or cat might benefit from these, please come and have a chat with us.

## MOY VETS

VETERINARY CENTRE



**Keep your pets in tip top condition... budget monthly and save money!**  
**Our Health Plan has all you need to keep your pet in the best of health.**

### Your membership includes:

- Twice yearly assessments including **FREE** annual vaccinations
- Full worming programme
- Flea and tick control

### Further savings on other services:

- 10% off all consultations with Vet or Nurse
- 10% off neutering
- 30% off microchips
- 10% off dental scale and polish
- 10% off additional vaccinations – Rabies & Kennel cough and puppy & kitten courses
- 10% off additional wormers
- 10% off additional flea treatment
- 10% off senior blood profiling (from 8 years old)
- **Royal Canin life stage diets - at cost price!**
- **FREE** nail clips with a nurse
- **FREE** twice yearly urine analysis for cats and dogs over 8 years old

### HOW DO I REGISTER?

The Answer is 'It's Easy'

Call in at one of our branches and complete a simple registration form. This will require details of your bank account to set up the direct debit, so remember to bring these with you.

### Cost of plan per month:

- Giant Dog** - over 40kg **£23.05**
- Large Dog** 20.1 - 40kg **£19.62**
- Medium Dog** 10.1 - 20kg **£15.28**
- Small Dog** - up to 10kg **£14.08**
- Cat** **£14.89**
- Rabbit** **£6.86**

## Autumn alert!



Summer is sadly over! The weather is cooling and the nights are drawing in. It is time to hunker down and light the fire. However, it is not the time to take your eye off the ball with our pets!

**Flea alert:** Autumn is the favourite time of year for fleas! Although it is colder outside, the heating in our houses turns them into flea paradises. Keep an eye out for these annoying pests and of course keep up your pets' flea treatments.

**Troublesome ticks:** Ticks also enjoy the Autumn as they thrive in the more humid conditions outdoors. Ticks live in long grass and woodland areas waiting to latch on to passing pets. Once attached, ticks feed on your pet's blood – often for several days. The main issue with ticks is that they can carry diseases in their saliva which they can potentially transmit to pets:

- **Lyme disease** is the primary tick borne pathogen in the UK and Ireland and can affect dogs and humans, and is carried by a small percentage of *Ixodes* ticks. Affected pets often show signs of arthritis, fever, lack of appetite and lethargy.
- **Babesiosis** is a tick borne disease which may affect dogs (but not humans) travelling to and from mainland Europe. It is caused by a tiny blood borne parasite *Babesia* which destroys red blood cells. Signs include dark red urine, pale or yellow gums, lethargy and fever. A recent outbreak of Babesiosis on the UK mainland (in Harlow, Essex) marks a further development in the spread of Babesiosis. This recent UK outbreak is very localised but it is important to be vigilant when travelling into at risk areas.



Additionally – watch out for falls of apples or conkers, both cause nasty tummy upsets if your dog eats too many. Also, if you need to use anti-freeze in the car, ensure there are no leaks and that the containers are well out of reach, as it is deadly to our pets.

Enjoy the Autumn weather and get in touch if you have any concerns!

**A personalised flea, tick and worming programme is discussed with you and included when on the Platinum Paws Plan.**



## Choosing the ideal diet for your pet!

When choosing a diet for your pets, the range and variety of diets can be over-whelming. So how do you decide which is best for your pets? The good news is that specially balanced *life-stage* diets are available for every stage of your pet's life, from tiny puppies and kittens to senior pets.

**Puppies and kittens** require specially formulated diets with higher (but not excessive) levels of energy, protein for muscle development and essential fatty acids for a healthy shining coat. **Adult pets**, with their major growth phase behind them, require a balanced diet to keep them healthy, but with lower levels of many of the nutrients mentioned above. **Senior pets** are vulnerable to many health issues, and specially formulated diets typically contain supplements to soothe arthritic joints and help heart, brain and kidney function.

If you are wondering about how to ensure your pet's diet is a perfect fit for them and their lifestyle, please come and speak to us – there are a range of great options to choose from!

**Royal Canin Life Stage Food at cost price when you are on the Platinum Paws Plan, saving you approximately 25%.**



### Check your pets for ticks!



Parting the coat reveals an *Ixodes* tick. These are widespread across the UK and Ireland and may be infected with *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the organism that causes Lyme disease in dogs and humans.



*Dermacentor* ticks can potentially carry *Babesia* organisms, the cause of Babesiosis in dogs. These ticks are found in mainland Europe and parts of the UK.

### Effective tick control

Prevention of tick-borne disease in pets can be achieved by:

- **Daily monitoring for ticks** plus careful removal of ticks with a tick remover (see below).



- **Chemical tick prophylaxis** with veterinary anti-parasitic products that rapidly kill, repel or expel ticks are all useful in reducing tick feeding and therefore disease exposure.

## To neuter is cuter! Benefits of pet neutering



Did you know that in addition to preventing unwanted pregnancies, there are many other health and behavioural benefits to having your pets neutered? Neutered pets are likely to live longer, healthier lives thanks to surgical procedures which are safe, quick and relatively painless.

**Dogs:** For female dogs the benefits of spaying are very clear. If left entire, the chances of them developing mammary (breast) cancer and life-threatening infections in their uterus are very high. Also, you don't have the practical considerations of them being in season (heat) every six months; when they will bleed, be attractive to the advances of every male dog in your area and be more likely to run away to find a mate. In male dogs, castration eliminates testicular cancer and makes prostate problems less likely. Also, for some it can have very positive effects on their behaviour.



**Cats:** For both male and female cats, neutering is imperative! Female cats can come into

heat as often as every two weeks during the breeding season (which occurs in the spring and summer months) and will endlessly try to escape and mate with local tom cats.

For un-neutered females coming into heat – if they go outside (even just once!) they will in all likelihood get pregnant and add to the cat population, which already hugely outnumbers the available homes. They will also be vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases, wounds from the males they mate with and they are also very likely to develop mammary cancers and uterine infections.

For toms, castration is equally important. Entire male cats wander and fight, putting them at risk of being run over by cars, getting nasty infected fight wounds and exposing them to deadly infectious diseases. In fact, a neutered male cat is likely to live a whole decade longer than a entire one!

For further information on neutering your pets, please contact a member of our practice team.

**Rabbits** will generally benefit from being neutered. Both sexes make much better, calmer pets and are also much more likely to live peacefully with others. Entire rabbits will often fight, even if related. Also over 80% of older female rabbits may suffer with, and often die from, uterine cancer.



**10% off neutering for pets on the Platinum Paws Plan.**

