

Firework Alert!

Many pets are afraid of fireworks and the days around Bonfire Night and New Year can be a stressful time for pet owners.

So what can be done to help?

- ◆ Keeping pets in the house with the curtains closed and the tv or radio on helps to reduce their awareness of the sounds and lights.
- ◆ If your pet is showing signs of fearful behaviour, try to *ignore* this behaviour and carry on as usual. It is important to avoid the urge to reassure fearful pets since reassurance encourages pets to continue displaying a particular behaviour. For this reason it is a great idea to reward your pet's *calm* behaviour with cuddles and treats.



For those pets that become phobic, there are medicines and techniques that can help them:

- ◆ The use of calming pheromone diffusers or collars can help pets feel calmer and safer in their environment. Pets should start wearing these at least 48 hours or more before fireworks are expected.
- ◆ Food supplements are available that can help pets feel more settled and calm and these can be given daily over a period of time
- ◆ In severe cases, anxiety relieving sedative medicines can be used. These are best given before your pet progresses into an anxious state.
- ◆ Noise phobia CDs can be used to gradually reduce sensitivity to loud sounds over a long period of time in the run up to Bonfire Night.

Ask at reception about these products or make an appointment so that we can examine your pet and discuss the options in further detail.

STAFF NEWS

Welcome back Louise

We are pleased to welcome Veterinary Nurse Louise Dunn to our team. Louise is based at our Totton Practice. She is well known to us as she has been a member of the team in previous years. It is great to have her back! Louise is a real animal lover and has 2 dogs, Ermintrude and Zebadee, 2 cats, Jake and Missy and a horse called Maggie May. Louise teaches veterinary nursing one day a week at Sparsholt college.

Congratulations Alex

As a Saturday boy at Lyndhurst and then a regular visiting Veterinary Student learning the ropes with us for the past five years, Alex Crook has passed his final exams and qualified as a Veterinary Surgeon. It seems no time at all since he was cleaning our kennels and being generally very helpful on a Saturday morning. Alex is now trying his hand at some farm animal work but perhaps one day we might see him again at Midforest! We wish him all the very best in his veterinary work.

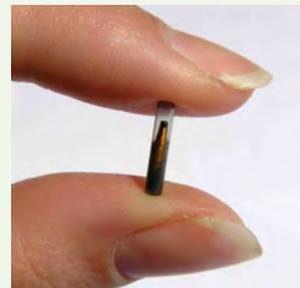


As temperatures drop and the nights draw in, it is great to get out and remain active in the Autumn. There are some factors that still need to be considered to keep our pets fit and well. With this in mind, here are a few seasonal tips:

- ◆ Autumn is a busy time for parasites! Fleas and ticks are still very much a problem so keep up to date with anti-parasitic treatments.
- ◆ Grass seeds can get caught up in the coat and should be brushed out after a walk to avoid them working their way into the skin which can cause pain and infection.
- ◆ Harvest mites can be a problem in the late-summer and autumn months. The mites live in long grass and swarm onto passing pets, where they typically congregate on the face, ears and feet. They appear as bright orange dots and are usually a cause of great irritation.
- ◆ There are risks in the garden too- if possible prevent your pet from having access to fallen fruits, acorns and conkers, all of which can cause digestive upsets and sometimes internal obstructions. Also remember that slugs and snails in the garden can spread lungworm. Sometimes when our pets eat grass they also inadvertently ingest small slugs and snails
- ◆ Anti-freeze comes out at this time of year as drivers prepare their cars for winter. Please keep your pets well away as anti-freeze is palatable but deadly to them. Wash away any spills thoroughly.
- ◆ Finally, bear in mind that the cooler weather may unmask arthritis and joint stiffness so keep an eye on your pets mobility and comfort. It is also a good idea to keep a close eye on your pets weight, since it is very easy to gain a few pounds during the short dark days of autumn and winter when they are potentially less active.

MICROCHIP UPDATE

Have you thought about how worrying it would be if you were to lose your pet? It is a sad fact that more than 300,000 pets get lost or go missing every year in the UK. There is a solution- you can have your pet microchipped with a slimline TRACER® Advance microchip. Tracers are the only non-glass microchip and in our opinion they are the best available.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Tracer microchip is injected through the bore of a needle and sits comfortably under the skin between the shoulder blades of cats and dogs. Each chip is about the size of a grain of rice and contains a 15 digit code. This code is registered for life with the national database Petlog. The microchip is read by passing a scanner over the skin above the microchip. Then if your pet were to get lost, it's just a case of reuniting you with your pet as soon as possible.

MICROCHIPPING OF ALL DOGS IN ENGLAND

From 6 April 2016 it will be compulsory for all dogs over 8 weeks of age to be microchipped. From that date owners will need to:

- ◆ Have their dog microchipped and registered on an authorised commercial database.
- ◆ Register the details of any new owner before they sell or give the dog away.
- ◆ Keep their contact details up-to-date on the microchip database.

Please contact us to have your pet Tracer® microchipped. The cost is included in our Puppy and Kitten packages. We also offer a 25% discount for microchipping whilst under general anaesthesia, eg.at neutering.

Kennel Cough-is your dog protected?

It is *known* as kennel cough, but it isn't just caught in kennels! On the contrary, your dog is more likely to encounter the disease wherever dogs meet, such as at the park, in the street, at dog shows, training classes or just out for a walk in the New Forest.

Kennel cough (or Infectious Tracheobronchitis) is a highly infectious cough that affects dogs, causing symptoms of severe whooping-like cough, sometimes sneezing and sore throat. Even in mild cases, the need for isolation to prevent infecting others can hinder normal exercise and socialisation.



The condition is caused by a mixture of viruses and a bacterium - *Bordatella bronchiseptica*. Luckily a vaccine is available, though unlike your dog's normal booster, the kennel cough vaccine is given by intra-nasal drops.

We recommend that dogs are vaccinated against kennel cough before going into kennels, dog shows, dog training classes or at other times when the disease is rife. Please contact us if you would like any further information on kennel cough vaccination, or would like to book an appointment.

Practice Opening Hours

Totton Practice

Mon-Fri 08.30-18.45 Sat 08.45- 12.00
Tel. 023 80660400

Lyndhurst Practice

Mon-Fri 08.30- 18.00 Sat 08.45-12.00
Tel. 023 80282358

Email: enquiries@midforestvets.co.uk

Outside of our opening hours we run our own 24/7 emergency service with our own vets and nurses. Just call the Practice telephone number for instructions on how to contact the duty vet.



Find us on Facebook. Each branch has its own page with regular updates.

Website: www.midforestvets.co.uk