



ANIMAL MEDICAL CENTRE



NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER
2011

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Welcome to our autumn newsletter....

FREE NURSE CLINIC'S NOW AVAILABLE

Qualified Nurses are available to see your pet for a FREE consultation covering:



- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Nutritional advice | Older pets 'M.O.T' |
| Weight/Obesity clinics | Behavioural problems |
| Dental hygiene | New puppy/kitten advice |
| General advice | Insurance advice |

If you would like a nurse to check your pet please make an appointment at reception.

IS YOUR PET SCARED OF FIREWORKS?

Bonfire night is approaching, and although it is a fun time for us, many pets find the loud noises and bangs incredibly distressing. Is it important we prepare for this time of year to minimise the stress and fear it creates for our furry friends.

To minimise distress in the short term the following measures are recommended.

- Take your dog out to the toilet before it starts to get dark and do not let pets out when fireworks are likely.
- Make a den or hiding place for your pet to go into or use a place where they have previously hidden. This should be in the room your pet will be in when the fireworks are being let off.
- Close the curtains and windows. Put on music or the TV.
- Stay with your pet but show no reaction to the fireworks. Don't fuss over your pet as this may send the message there is something to be afraid of or teach them to show fear to get your attention. Just try to behave as normally as possible.
- Use a pheromone diffuser **DAP** or **Adaptil** for dogs or **Feliway** for cats. The diffuser is similar in design to a 'plug in' air freshener releasing a pheromone that mimics the properties of natural appeasing pheromones. **DAP** or **Adaptil** pheromone collars are also available for dogs. They should be used one to two weeks before, and for one week after the firework season has ended.
- Use of supplements such as **Zylkene** or valerian based products may help with your pets anxiety and should be started a few days before the fireworks start.
- In some situations using short term sedatives to reduce the emotional impact may be prescribed by a vet. The response to these medications can be variable and are best evaluated a few days prior to the expected fireworks.



MICROCHIP YOUR PETS

If your pet should become lost, involved in an accident, or stolen, a microchip will enable people to readily identify them and reunite you.

Microchipping is the most reliable and effective way of permanently identifying your pet. A microchip is a small chip (about the size of a grain of rice) that is implanted under the skin using a very quick injection. Each chip contains a unique bar code which appears when scanned by a microchip scanner. The details of the chip and your contact information are stored in a national database when the chip is first registered.

Microchipping can be done at any age.

For the microchip to remain the most reliable source of identification, it is important that owners update the database if there is a change in any contact details.

