

Colne Valley News – Autumn 2019



Fireworks

Guy Fawkes Night is on the horizon once more, this year falling on a Tuesday. This means that fireworks displays are likely to spread over as many as ten days, or more, from the weekend before to the weekend after 5th November. Keep your cats indoors from dusk and ensure any pets kept outside are safely confined.

If your dog has fireworks anxiety, please contact us for advice, ideally well in advance. There is also a fireworks information sheet on the website. With fireworks being used for celebrations at other times of the year, it is important to have a strategy in place to help you and your dog to cope.

If your dog has previously been prescribed a prescription-only (POM-V) drug for firework anxiety and repeat dispensing is needed, then please allow plenty of time for your request to be checked and dispensed. This is particularly the case if your dog has not been examined in the past six months as an appointment with a veterinary surgeon for a medication review will be necessary before the medication can be dispensed.

Ten year service celebration

At the end of August, we celebrated Lucy's tenth year with the practice. Lucy took up a training position with us after graduating from university. She successfully qualified as a veterinary nurse and has remained with us since, as part of our valued nursing team. Currently on maternity leave, Lucy will be returning on a part-time basis in the new year.

The years pass and many members of staff who have already celebrated ten years with the practice are still with us and will be coming up for twenty years' service. Indeed, two members are approaching thirty years with Colne Valley Vets! We consider ourselves very lucky to have people work with us for so long.

Microchipping cats

Whilst microchipping of dogs has been compulsory since 2016, the value of chipping cats cannot be underestimated. In recent weeks, we have had several stray cats brought in, with varying success in reuniting them with their owners. This depends on one of the following scenarios:

- no microchip found and no other form of identification on the cat - finding the owner is reliant on word-of-mouth and social media;
- Microchip found but contact details for the owner are out-of-date so that the owner cannot be contacted - again, reuniting the cat with the owner is more difficult and less likely;
- Microchip found and owner contacted via the contact details registered against the chip on the database - cat reunited with owner - successful outcome

One cat brought in during the summer had been missing for four years!

Cats do wander and reuniting a stray cat with an owner who has not only gone to the trouble of microchipping but also kept the contact details updated on the database is very satisfying. It is even worth considering having house cats chipped because there is always the risk of escape. The outside world will seem very strange so the chances of becoming lost are high.

Chipping adult cats is usually straight forward and not resented. We recommend chipping kittens whilst they are anaesthetised for neutering. This seems preferable to doing it when they come for their initial vaccinations because they are often very little then. In most cases, cats will not be going outside until after neutering at four months of age.

Above all, with any animal that has been microchipped, please remember to keep your contact details up-to-date with the microchip database, and also with us. Most important is an up to date mobile number.

