

# Nurse Clinics

At all four of our branches we hold a number of Nurse Clinics that aim to provide you with the right help, skills and knowledge required to successfully raise an animal. The clinics are run by our Nurses who have a wealth of experience working with both young and old pets, and all those in between.

## What do our Nurses do?

Puppy / Kitten checks	One to one socialisation chats	Puppy Parties	Adolescent checks
Weight checks	Pet Paradise	Nail clip / care	Pre operative checks
Removal of stitches	Bandage & wound management	Anal gland expression	Flea & worming checks
Blood pressure monitoring	Behaviour one to ones	Nutrition advice	Senior wellness
Laser therapy	School visit / talks	Community support	Home visits

For an appointment or more information please give one of our 4 surgeries a call.



### Dr Emma Taylor – BVSc MRCVS

Emma graduated from the University of Liverpool with honours and a distinction in Veterinary Science. Emma spent time with Bay

Vets as a student and has a particular interest in medicine. In her spare time she enjoys playing netball, horse riding, snowboarding and spending time with her Fiancé who is also a Veterinary Surgeon. Emma has a pet cat called Bagel who was brought into Bay Vets as a stray kitten, a pet rabbit, gerbil and a variety of fish.

Caton: 01524 770615  
 Lancaster: 01524 32696  
 Morecambe: 01524 410867  
 Milnthorpe: 015395 62770



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## Bay Vets Gazette The Community Vets

# Specially trained Cat Advocates

## at Bay Vets



As a result of our commitment to excellent care of cats and their owners, Bay Vets are becoming more "Cat Friendly". We understand that cats are not just small dogs! Cats not only have a range of diseases which are different to their canine cousins, but they have different temperaments and need to be handled and treated in a different way. Bringing your cat to the practice can be a challenging experience. It usually begins with a game of "catch me if you can" followed by a wrestling match to get your cat into its carrier. Then comes the howling and yelling whilst on the trip to the vets.

We would like to help keep your cat as calm as possible and share ways with you to keep them at ease. We now have two specially trained Cat Advocates within our team. Diane and Jo have recently attended a "Cattitude" course for information on how we can make our practice at Lancaster more cat friendly.

### Some of the changes we have made:

- ◆ Cat parking lot (safely away from other animals)
- ◆ Variety of cat magazines and information
- ◆ Cat treats
- ◆ Fluffy blankets to place over the carrier if your cat is scared
- ◆ Two information boards with tips and advice
- ◆ Feliway & Pet Remedy anti-distress plug in diffusers in the waiting area
- ◆ Split waiting area for cats and dogs



We hope you benefit from the changes we have made so far and we would love to hear your feedback. Stay tuned to see our Morecambe surgery changes very soon!

### Inside this issue:

- Cat friendly clinics
- Pet firework fear
- Has my dog had a stroke?
- Nurse Clinics
- Welcome to our new vet

Find us on:



# PET FIREWORK FEAR



## Top ten tips for dogs

1. Prepare a 'den' so that your dog has somewhere to hide. Encourage use by hiding healthy food treats or toys there. If your dog hides in a corner or under a bed, leave him alone and do not try to coax him out. This 'bolthole' is where he will feel most secure and must be accessible at all times. Help create this comforting 'den' by using a plug in D.A.P.® Diffuser.
2. When you expect fireworks, ensure your dog is safely inside and secure doors and windows.
3. Make sure your pet is microchipped. If they do escape, frightened and confused animals can easily get lost.
4. Ensure your dog is taken out for a walk early in the evening before the fireworks start.
5. Draw curtains and play music or have the TV on to help mask the noise of fireworks.
6. Ignore any fearful behaviour and do not try to comfort your pet. The animal will pick up on your anxiety and this may make the problem worse. Fussing a pet that appears frightened can reward and encourage this behaviour.
7. Don't punish your pet. This only confirms that there is something to be afraid of.
8. Try not to go out while the fireworks are going off. Seeing you acting normally will help your pet feel more settled.
9. Speak to your vet. D.A.P.® Spray can be applied to your pet's bedding on the night of the event to give him additional support.
10. After the firework season is over you should contact your vet to ask about treatment for your dog's fear of fireworks. D.A.P.® and the Sounds Scary® CD therapy pack have been scientifically proven to be an effective combination for treating firework phobias in dogs.

## Top ten tips for cats



1. On the evenings you expect fireworks, ensure your cat is safely inside and secure doors, windows and cat flaps.
2. If your cat hides on top of cupboards or under furniture, leave her alone and do not try to coax her out. This 'bolthole' is where she will feel most secure. It is important that your pet can access her favourite bolthole at all times.
3. Plugging a Feliway® Diffuser in the room where the cat spends most of her time 48 hours before the festivities will increase her sense of security.
4. Make sure your cat is microchipped. If they do escape, frightened and confused animals can easily get lost.
5. Ensure your cat is provided with a litter tray both before and during the firework season.
6. Draw curtains to reduce the noise from outside and play music or have the TV on to help mask the noise of fireworks.
7. Ignore any fearful behaviour and do not try to comfort your cat. More importantly, do not try to pick her up or restrain her. Fearful cats prefer to be left to cope on their own.
8. Try not to go out while the fireworks are going off. Stay calm and act normally.
9. In multi-cat households, shutting cats in overnight may cause disharmony amongst your pets. A Feliway® Diffuser may help lower inter-cat tension.
10. If you are worried that your pet is taking a long time to recover from the firework festivities, speak to your vet.

# Has my dog had a stroke?



Although we often use the term 'stroke' and some symptoms resemble a human stroke, in fact it is more likely your dog has suffered a vestibular episode that is not the same as our human strokes. It is a traumatising experience for the owner and you might worry about it happening again and what this might mean in terms of quality of life for your dog.

If vestibular disease is diagnosed quickly and prompt supportive treatment is given the outlook for a good recovery is enhanced.

The vestibular apparatus is concerned with maintaining the balanced posture of the dog. Components involve the structure of the inner ear, i.e. semi-circular canals, with nerve connections to the part of the brain known as the medulla oblongata.

Signs of vestibular syndrome (old dogs vestibular disease) include a loss of balance (ataxia), leaning to one side, head tilt and rapid eye movements (nystagmus). Sometimes the loss of balance is so severe the dog rolls over and over. Occasionally there will be lack of coordination and/or some paralysis and some dogs may vomit just before the onset of the other signs. Inflammation of the external or middle ear may accompany the disease and sometimes may be coincidental.

The syndrome can affect any breed or cross of breeds and is more common in medium and large sized dogs. Most affected animals are more than eight years old.

The cause is unknown but trauma or stress can sometimes play a part.

The condition is usually very rapid in onset and can occur in a matter of hours. However once established it is non-progressive; it does not get any worse. Frequently it will rapidly improve. Treatment is basically supportive - re-hydration and maintenance of fluid balance by means of intravenous fluid is often required, particularly if vomiting has occurred. Sedation may occasionally be required for dogs with severe disorientation together with the use of anti-emetic drugs such as those used to combat motion sickness. Antibiotics and/or corticosteroids may also be prescribed by your veterinary surgeon depending on the circumstances.

Despite the severity of the initial signs, in the majority of cases the prognosis is good and rapid improvement should be seen within 48 hours. Occasionally other issues such as pressure on the central nervous system, if the brain stem is involved or if the condition is complicated by an extension of infection from the middle ear, can mean improvement will take much longer.

If you have any concerns at all, just give one of our surgeries a call.

