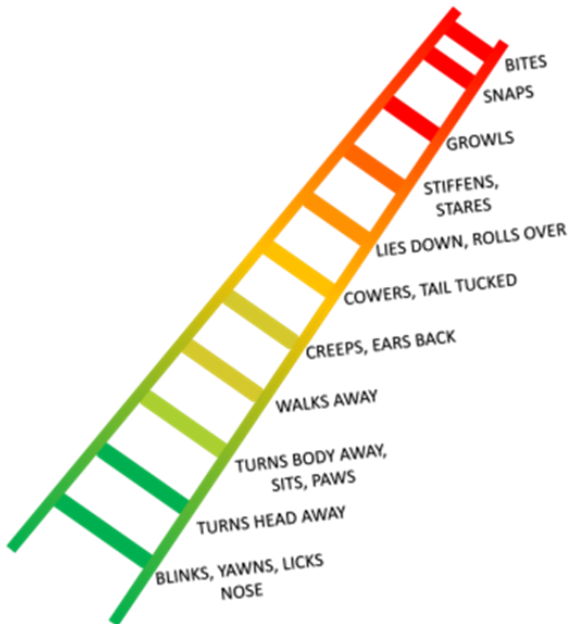


## COMPANION ANIMAL NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2023

### FEAR IN DOGS

Fear is a natural emotional response for a dog to experience when in an unusual situation, primarily for self-preservation. Going to new places, such as into the veterinary surgery, can be a challenging time; there are lots of different and unusual smells, as well as people and other animals they may not have come into contact with before. As a result of this, we should try to be aware of the different, and subtle signs our dogs show us when they are feeling a bit uncomfortable and need some reassurance.

There are many subtle signs that dogs will show if they feel uncomfortable, fearful, or threatened. Small signs like looking up at you showing the whites of their eyes, pawing at you, yawning or licking their nose can be easily missed, misinterpreted or overlooked. However, these are the little signs a dog will show to suggest that they are experiencing fear. If these signs are not acknowledged, or do not achieve the desired response, then the dog is likely to move on to a more obvious, and sometimes more aggressive, behaviour.



The British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) has developed a scale called 'The Ladder of Aggression' to make people aware of the progressive signs of anxiety (see left). They hope that by introducing this concept to owners, it may lead to more understanding of their dog's behaviour and help them to make them feel at ease in unfamiliar situations. This, in turn, might then avoid any elevation to aggressive behaviour.

Once a dog has shown more aggressive signs of behaviour which tend to get more of a response (attention), they learn that this is more effective, and are therefore less likely to use the more subtle signs again, jumping straight to aggression.

Recently we have noticed an increase in dogs showing signs of anxiety and are very keen to reduce this, making dogs feel as comfortable as possible when visiting the surgery. We aim to make every experience at the surgery as positive as we can, but if there is anything else we can do to help, please let us know.



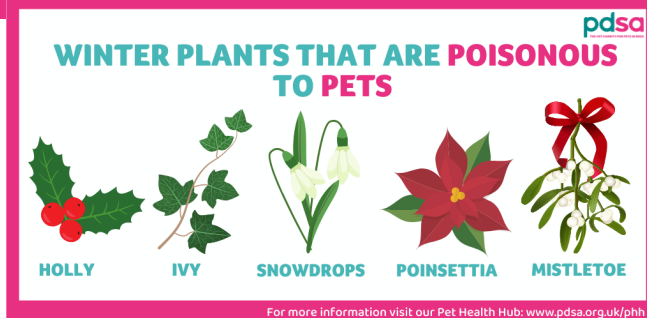
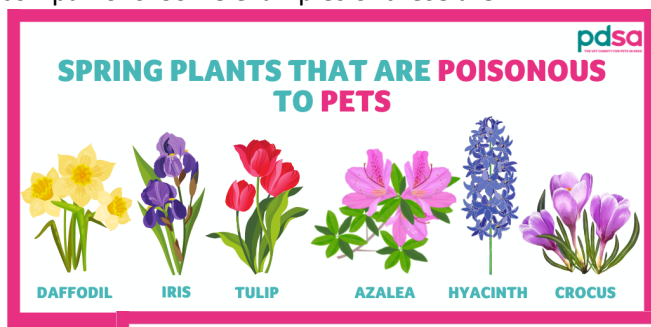
### *Congratulations Hollie!*

A huge congratulations to Hollie the vet, who tied the knot with her partner Matt.

The couple were married at Browsholme Hall where they continued their special day till the early hours!

# POISONOUS PLANTS

It is important for dog and cat owners to be aware of poisonous plants, which could affect their pet. At this time of year the plants and flowers are starting to bloom, the countryside looks beautiful and full of life, but whilst you're tending to your garden or going to the shops to buy a bunch of flowers there are some plants to be aware of that can be poisonous to our companions. Some examples of these are:



For more information visit our Pet Health Hub: [www.pdsa.org.uk/phh](http://www.pdsa.org.uk/phh)

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## How do I know if my pet has eaten a poisonous plant?

Of course the most obvious way you may know, is if you catch them eating it! If you see your pet eating a potentially dangerous plant, **always call your vet for advice straight away – don't wait for symptoms to appear.** However, you may not see your pet eating the plant and so may not know anything is amiss until they start to display symptoms.

Symptoms of plant toxicity or poisoning can include:

- \* Lethargy
- \* Vomiting
- \* Diarrhoea
- \* Blood in faeces
- \* Drinking/urinating more
- \* Pale gums
- \* Twitching
- \* Seizures (fitting)
- \* Struggling to breathe
- \* Collapse
- \* Drooling
- \* Reduced appetite



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It's not just poisonous plants that we need to be cautious of – grass seeds, pesticides, weed killer and compost bins can be just as hazardous for our pets. Grass seeds can be a hidden hazard, they can become lodged in your pet's skin, ears or eyes, and can move through the body's tissues causing serious inflammation or infection. If in doubt, please telephone the surgery.



Check out our website [www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk](http://www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk) for more information about caring for your pet, special offers, vet and staff profiles and much more!

