

COMPANION ANIMAL NEWSLETTER– August 2021

KEEPING IT COOL

Summer is here and the heat wave has finally hit North Yorkshire but love or loath the hot weather we owe it to our pets to keep them cool during these hazy summer days. Here are some top tips to keep them cool:

Walk your dog during the cooler hours – so early mornings and late evenings once the sun isn't blazing down. If you have to walk them during the day choose sheltered areas such as woodlands and shady areas and if they love water go to your local river so they can splash around. Avoid hot pavements! They really heat up during the day and can burn our pet's feet so stick to fields and grassy tracks. A paddling pool for your pooch can be great fun and a super way of keeping them cool in the garden.

Some pets may suffer with sunburn on the tips of their ears and nose, especially pink pigmented skin – using a barrier cream such as Filtabac will help protect them. If your dog does overheat don't cool them down too quickly, pour small amounts of room temperature water over them, encourage them to lie on water soaked towels, place fans near them and move them into a shady area. Allow to drink small amounts of tepid water.

Symptoms of heatstroke in dogs:

- Panting heavily
- Drooling excessively
- Appear lethargic, drowsy or uncoordinated
- Vomiting
- Collapsing
- Diarrhoea



Heatstroke can affect any type of dog, but certain breeds and types of dog are at increased risk, including brachycephalic or flat-faced breeds such as English Bulldogs, Pugs and French Bulldogs.

Polite Notice

In order to provide you with the most efficient service we would be very grateful for 24 to 48 hours notice when ordering repeat medications. Only a vet is licensed to prescribe prescription only medication and time is structured into their day for them to review patient records and dispense any prescription requests, for this reason we are unable to give out repeat medication without prior notice. Please note some medications may need to be ordered in for individual patients and require a least a week's notice to allow time to be ordered and delivered to the practice.

It is a requirement by law that your pet is under the care of a veterinary surgeon for a prescription only medicine (POM-V) to be dispensed, and it is our practice policy that animals on repeat POM-V's need to see a vet every **4 months** for a check up. This enables us to ensure dosing does not need to be altered, and that no side effects are developing. Prescription only flea, tick and worming products can be dispensed if your animal has been seen by a vet within the past 12 months as the health check at the annual booster covers this requirement.

ELIZABETHAN COLLARS

Elizabethan collars; a necessary evil? Make your journey a happy one.

Elizabethan collars, funnels, 'cone of shame', we've all had to live with them at one time or another. Elizabethan collars are routinely used throughout the veterinary industry to prevent self trauma, infections and wound interference. They can play a critical and important role in protecting our patients from self trauma, preventing suture removal, facilitating wounds to heal, protecting bandages and dressings and preventing the removal of topical medications. However, it would be an understatement to say that Elizabethan collars are not loved by the owners of animals wearing them! Owners often book operations around weekends, holidays or annual leave to be at home and supervise recovery.



We often get collars returned, rarely pristine, bent out of shape, cracked and bearing marks of home repairs and other modifications made by owners to improve comfort. And there's living with them....hostility between household cats and dogs, lack of sleep and lower limb injuries to owners! All this can cause fear, anxiety and distress to all those involved and it is important to us to consider how we can minimise the animal's distress.



While well fitting Elizabethan collars are the most effective way to protect animals from self trauma, particularly following surgery, they are not unproblematic and can cause distress and injury to animals, their owners, or both. For this reason we have many other alternatives to help aid the

recovery of your pet and make the journey less stressful.

We stock a wide range of pet shirts which we've had a great response to, and animals seem to love this alternative. These body suits are easy to put on and take off and wash in no time.

If your pet needs a collar due to facial surgery or eye injuries we have inflatable collars and soft cone collars. These can allow patients to eat and drink easily and are less likely to cause damage to owners, walls and furnishings.



Other post operation considerations are how to keep your pet rested? We have cages which are available to hire for small dogs and cats and these flatten down for ease of transportation.



The use of calming products is also a great way to aid a stress free visit to the vets and can be beneficial in a successful recovery. We offer capsules, sprays and plug in diffusers if you feel your pet's experience at the vets may need a little help. We all want our pets visit to be as stress free and calm as possible and our team of veterinary surgeons, nurses and staff are at hand to make this happen. If you feel anxious or concerned about your pet's visit please contact us and we can discuss how to make your visit a happy one.



Check out our website www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk for more information about caring for your pet, special offers, vet and staff profiles and much more!

