

Get ready for Autumn



By Kate Slack *RVN*
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Wow! Its certainly been a busy couple of months here at Blacks Vets.

Over the summer, you may have seen us on prime time Channel 4 show, The Job Interview, where our MD, Tracey and Practice Manager, Val, were filmed recruiting for a new receptionist for our flagship Accredited Veterinary Hospital in Dudley. As some of you may know, it was former teacher Emily that eventually won the role, but we were delighted to also offer positions to David and Nicola who also featured in the programme. We're happy to confirm that all three have settled in and are doing brilliantly.

Its great to have extra team members on board as Autumn promises to be just as busy for the Blacks team,



Val Marsh and Tracey Morley Jewkes with 'The Job Interview' applicant, Nicola

with plenty of seasonal issues to attend to. Here's a round up of some of the most common problems.

Harvest Mites

Is your pet scratching more than usual? As well as fleas, this time of year can also bring Harvest Mites, a parasite whose larvae can live on mammals and birds. Feeding on tissue fluids, the larvae tend to attach themselves to areas where the hair is less dense so infestations are often found at the base of the ears, near the chin and mouth, the stomach and between the toes. If your pet is showing a red rash of spots, its important to have them checked by a vet as soon as possible. As well as being very painful, skin that has been repeatedly scratched is at risk of developing infection, which can become serious if left untreated.

Sore Joints

As the weather cools, many pet owners start to notice that their pet's mobility may not be what it once was. As with humans, a cold, damp climate can aggravate arthritic conditions, particularly in older animals. Symptoms may present themselves subtly, such as slowing down on a walk or a change in temperament, or more obviously such as limping or being unable to jump into the car.

Some pets may chew or lick the affected area in an instinctive attempt to soothe the pain and may become snappy and irritable in situations where once they were placid. The good news is that your vet can help and early intervention creates the best results. There are now many safe, anti-inflammatory and pain relieving medications available that can help alleviate and manage symptoms. Once your pet reaches 7 or 8 years of age, it's a good idea to speak to your vet anyway about keeping your pet happy and comfortable as they get older.

Firework season begins

As October approaches, we need to begin preparing our pets for the start of firework season. For some pets, this is an extremely distressing time of year that can begin as early as Halloween and extend right up until New Year's Eve, so best to start now. The Dogs Trust has an excellent website packed with useful information and also carries a sound section featuring numerous clips of common troublesome noises. This



includes fireworks, thunderstorms and even vacuum cleaners! If you begin to play the sound clips at a low volume, in a calm, everyday environment, your pet will slowly become accustomed to the noises without panic and fear. Increase the volume a little each time you play them and carry on with your normal daily tasks. Visit www.dogstrust.org.uk and find the sound clips in their Dog Behaviour & Health section under the title Sound Therapy.

If your pet still finds the sounds highly distressing, your vet can prescribe

medication that can help soothe and calm. Why not speak with one of our Registered Veterinary Nurses for further advice and tips? We have five branch locations in Dudley, Lye, Oldbury, Quinton and Sedgley all with experienced and friendly staff.

National Black Cat Day

October 27th is National Black Cat Day. This event is held by charity, Cats Protection, who instigated the day to promote adoption and re-homing of black cats. Did you know that black cats are more likely to be sent to an



animal rescue centre and are more difficult to re-home? Superstition is thought to be a main reason for this statistic but here at Blacks Vets we beg to differ! Cats, irrespective of their colour, make wonderful family pets, so if you're considering adopting a moggy, please give some thought to offering a home to a black beauty! Our Pet Starter Package is ideal for all new animal family members and includes vaccinations, micro-chipping and a general health check. See our website for full details www.blacksvets.co.uk

And finally...

Fancy joining a winning team? Blacks Vets is currently recruiting Vets and Registered Veterinary Nurses. For further information, please visit www.blacksvets.co.uk or email Val Marsh confidentially valmarsh@blacksvets.co.uk



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