

Small Talk

AUTUMN 2023

Hafren Veterinary Group Small Animal Newsletter



Welcome to the Autumn 2023 edition of our newsletter, bringing you seasonal and topical information and updates.

We hope you've all had a lovely Summer - the weather was a bit hit and miss and now the nights are drawing in and Autumn and Winter are just around the corner.



HAFREN TEAM NEWS

Autumn has brought a big change to the nursing team in Newtown. After 14 years, Joedie our Head RVN is heading off to Telford for a new challenge working in a Referral Hospital. Joedie started at Hafren as a VCA trained as a SVN, qualified as an RVN and then became head nurse. We wish her every success for her new adventure and congratulations and good luck for her forthcoming wedding - the whole team, all the clients and their pets are going to miss you.

Welcome to Lee RVN and Georgia RVN - both of whom will be in Newtown - we hope you will be very happy at Team Hafren and can't wait for you both to start.



AUTUMN ALERT



- The Autumn is a peak time for parasites and we've featured a couple of the main culprits below: Harvest mites are a problem seen in the late-summer and autumn months. These tiny mites live in long grass and swarm onto passing pets, where they typically congregate on the face, ears and feet. They appear as bright orange dots and are usually a cause of great irritation as they feed on your pet. Turning to fleas – as the weather cools, flea numbers decrease outside, but as the central heating goes on, so numbers increase inside your home! Our homes have everything they need: warmth, carpets and soft furnishings to breed in and a readily available source of food in our pets. So it's essential to keep up your anti-parasitic treatments!
- Autumn joint alert: The cooler Autumn weather often unmasks arthritic disease and joint stiffness, so keep an eye on your pet's mobility and comfort. Arthritis is a common disease in dogs and cats, and generally worsens with age. The good news is that there are often many ways we can help them, from weight loss to novel forms of treatment. So if your pet seems to be slowing down this the Autumn, speak to us about how we can put the spring back in their step!
- Poisonings are also a concern at this time of year, so keep an eye on what your pet is trying to eat, especially dogs on walks! Conkers, acorns and rotting fruit are plentiful on the ground but can cause upset tummies. Also be vigilant for any spilt anti-freeze (used to top-up car radiators at this time of year); it is highly toxic but tastes very sweet, so cats in particular will readily lick it up.
- Wasps and bees are coming to the end of their summer lives and are often pretty slow, which makes them irresistible playthings for dogs and cats but they can still sting, which is painful and causes nasty swellings. These are usually easily treated with injections and the sooner we see your pet the better! So – enjoy the autumn weather, but make sure your pets stay safe! Please call us if you would like any more information.