

# New Addition

# ORCHARD

VETERINARY CENTRE

## news

Autumn 2022

## in Your Home?

If you have always longed for a dog to love and care for and have just become a pet owner for the very first time, we are sure you are already receiving plenty of love, affection and companionship in return! Our four-legged friends are just amazing and become very tuned in to our emotions.

### By your side!

Your dog would be happy to be with you 24/7, but there are school runs, work, shopping and more, so it is not always possible for this to happen. However, it is important to understand that your pet can get lonely when you go out and although he or she needs to experience 'being left alone', gradual training and patience will be required.

### Some pets may show signs of what we call 'separation anxiety'.

Your pet has become dependent on the presence of a person or people at home and when they leave, the fear of separation is just too much. Anxiety may cause your dog to display destructive behaviour such as ripping cushions and flooring, chewing woodwork or sofas, toileting indoors, howling, whining ..... **but this is not the dog's fault.**

The behaviour displayed can be misunderstood as 'bad or naughty behaviour', but there is an underlying cause. Your pet may also show signs including depression, excessive panting, agitation or loss of appetite.

Humans can talk through their worries, but our pets show their feelings through behaviour, like wagging their tail when they are happy!

**Wasp Stings** Apples on the ground may have wasps inside feeding on the fruit. Our pets cannot resist snapping, pawing and chasing wasps, which can result in a nasty, painful sting! **Swelling, particularly around the face or mouth, drooling, difficulty breathing or collapse**, then do not delay in calling us, as some cats and dogs can be allergic to stings.

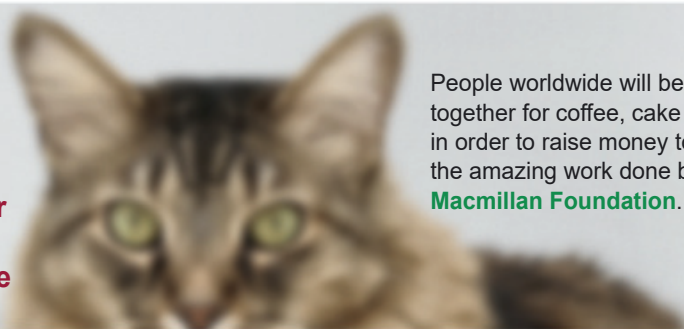


**Help is available** Discussing the behavioral difficulties will be the first step forward to resolving the problem, so please do call us! If you are a first time pet owner, it may all seem a bit daunting, but our experienced team are here with lots of advice on caring for your pet whether it is behavioural, vaccinations, flea treatments or even cleaning their teeth. We are here to help your pet enjoy a healthy, happy and loving life with you!

## Fancy a Cuppa?

**Friday 30th September**  
this year is the day the  
**World's Biggest Coffee**  
**Morning** takes place.

People worldwide will be gathering together for coffee, cake and fun, in order to raise money towards the amazing work done by the **Macmillan Foundation**.



### HOURS

410 Birchfield Lane  
**OLDBURY**  
B69 1AD

**0121 544 0404**

Mon to Fri 8:30am - 6:30pm  
Sat 8:30am - 12:30pm

Home Farm  
Northfield Road  
**HARBORNE**  
B17 0TD

**0121 428 1777**

Mon to Fri 8:30am - 6:30pm

210 Holyhead Road  
**WEDNESBURY**  
WS10 7DH

**0121 556 6890**

Mon to Fri 8:30am - 6:30pm

In support of Macmillan, **we would like to invite you along on the morning of the 30th September** to join us at our **Oldbury Surgery** for coffee, cake and a **complimentary tour of our surgery**. If you are able to join us please give us a call to book your place on **0121 544 0404**. **We'd love to see you!**

[www.orchardvets.co.uk](http://www.orchardvets.co.uk)



# Two are Always Better than One!

Imagine sitting all on your own in a hutch at the bottom of a garden. Sounds a very lonely and sad life to have to live..... doesn't it? Well this is actually how some rabbits spend all their lives - alone. Sadly he or she was bought as a single pet, but rabbits are naturally very social creatures, as in the wild they always live with other rabbits. If you are considering having rabbits as pets, two or more is best!

**A neutered male and female pair** should live well together.

## Inquisitive~Active~Intelligent

Rabbits need to express their natural behaviour and love to dig, run, jump and play every day, so you must provide an interesting and fun life for your pets.

- ❖ **An earth pit** for digging.
- ❖ **Tree stumps**, twigs and suitable toys for playtime.
- ❖ **Encourage foraging** for food by scattering pellets in the hay, and by filling boxes or cardboard tubes.

We all like our homes to be comfortable and rabbits are no different! You will need to provide indoor and outdoor accommodation that allows them to ~

- ❖ **Easily stand up tall on their hind legs** ❖ **Lie fully outstretched**
- ❖ **Make at least 3 consecutive hops** ❖ **Turn around unhindered**

Visit [www.rabbitwelfare.co.uk](http://www.rabbitwelfare.co.uk) for full information on housing and outside run sizing. We also have plenty of advice here too on feeding and healthcare for your rabbits, so please do not hesitate to call us. The main aim as with all pets, is to provide a loving and caring home so their lives can be happy and healthy. If you get it right with rabbits they will show their happiness by doing 'the binky', which is a jumping and twisting action when life is good!



## Firework Fright!

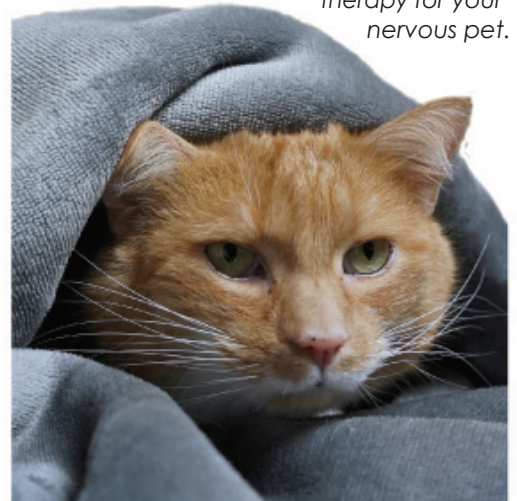


The season of loud bangs, whizzes and screeches does not affect some dogs or cats, but for others, firework sounds create a fear that is so distressing, and equally upsetting for their owners to see.

### Advance preparation is the key!

The aim is to build a calming and relaxed environment for your pet to help combat Firework Fright. **Remember remember the 5th of November.....we are here to help!**

Please do call us well in advance of the firework season. We have plenty of help and advice, and can discuss the appropriate therapy for your nervous pet.



**Create a safe haven indoors** some weeks before it all kicks off! Place inside favourite toys, blankets, an item of clothing holding your scent, food, water and treats.

**Pheromone plug-in diffusers** can help build a calming atmosphere.

**Play a gentle game** or music to mask the outside noises.

**Always keep pets indoors** as it protects against misuse of fireworks.

**Please call our friendly and understanding team for more information.**

## Such a Wee Mite!

**Late summer and autumn time conjure up visions of gathering crops and blackberry picking, but it is also the time when the troublesome harvest mites can cause major irritation for our cats and dogs!**

The adult mite lives in plants and other vegetation, but the larvae (*Trombicula autumnalis*) are at the stage in their life cycle where they require a warm blooded host to feed from, and this could be your pet!

**Harvest mites are..... reddish in colour. Very tiny, only just visible to the naked eye. Active during the day in late summer and autumn.**

The mites go for areas where the hair and skin are thin. Their small hook fangs then pierce the surface injecting a fluid that liquefies cells to enable easy feeding. The larvae continue feeding for two or three days, increasing in size and causing a considerable amount of itching and discomfort. As your pet scratches and rubs to ease the irritation, skin can become raw and sore, and crusty spots may develop.

**Treatment and Prevention** Products are available to deal with harvest mites and our vet will provide instructions for treating and helping to prevent or reduce reinfestation. During the season regularly check around the ears, face, under the chin, the mouth and areas of the body that have no or very little hair. **If you see your pet excessively scratching and nibbling or notice clusters of tiny orange/red flecks on the skin, call us for further advice.** There are many conditions that can cause skin irritation, so it is always best for your pet to be checked over.



A highly magnified mite. They are actually smaller than 1mm.