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VERMONT VALUE VET
VETERINARY HOSPITAL

"Affordable premium pet health care"

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Staff News

Dr Nicole Gunton has recently adopted a young goat from Animal aid in Coldstream, named Glen. Isn't he the cutest baby goat you have ever seen!! Originally he was her foster but her family has grown to absolutely love him, so he now has a forever home.

Recently the team have joined forces with Warriors for Wildlife to donate much needed supplies to the impact of the bushfires.

We would also like to say thank-you to all our clients who donated towards Warriors for Wildlife to help aid the bushfires. We have use the money to buy much needed supplies.



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Pain in Cats

Even at the best of times it's hard to identify our cat's pain levels. Cats are very hard creatures to read, which can make it hard when we are trying to identify whether they are sick or not. Some cats are quite vocal when in pain, while others may stay silent in pain.

Physiological signs could also be influenced by underlying health conditions or drugs. Instead, vets need to rely on reports of behaviours at home such as laying low, being grumpy or not as smoochy and refusing food.

What can we do?

While vets use scales to identify acute pain, they rely heavily on parents to spot when their cat is suffering from chronic pain as a result of conditions such as osteoarthritis and kidney disease.

Look out for:

- Lack of interest in food
- Not moving around or jumping up onto things as much
- Changes to how they use litter trays or scratching pole
- Long nails, or not grooming as much



IS YOUR DOG AFRAID OF THUNDERSTORMS?

Does your dog become distressed when there is a thunderstorm? Many dogs will pace, try to escape, hide, cling to their owners or dig, sometime causing damage to both themselves and the property. Over time, these behaviours can occur with changes associated with storms, such as wind, rain and clouds. Thunderstorm phobias generally worsen over time and can generalize to other noises, such as fireworks or loud noises. If your dog gets distressed in storms, it is important to recognize the problem and act early, before it becomes worse.

Bring your dog indoors and give him a "safe place" to settle. This may be the bottom of a wardrobe, under a blanket draped between chairs or in a crate. Let your dog choose where he is most comfortable. Crate training a dog when there are no storms can be helpful to create a place he is happy to settle. Be sure your dog has the option to come and go freely, as confinement can increase the level of panic.

Try to make a positive association with storms by engaging in an activity your dog really enjoys. Do some training, play games or give him high value food. Play calming music to help settle your dog and disguise the noises associated with the storm. It is important to understand that becoming reactive during storms is like having a panic attack, and your dog does not have control over his behaviour. If he is unable to settle or engage with you in activities he would usually enjoy, then it is important to see advice from your veterinarian. Some dogs benefit from having medication when storms are expected, to decrease their anxiety, help them to think and engage with you to make more positive associations.

Dr Nicole Gunton BVSc(Hons)



Puppy Pre-School!

Our puppy school runs from Tuesday nights 7.30pm to 8.30pm. Be sure to book in your pup. Puppy pre-school is the best way to socialize your puppy when they are young. Our teacher - Nurse Steph has been teaching the class for the last year. She focuses a lot on environmental enrichment, toilet training, grooming, socialization and obedience.

Please feel free to call us anytime with questions!

