

**Anxious Dog Clinics – How To Help Your Dog**

What is it for? For some dogs a visit to the vets can be a very stressful experience. As the owner of one of these dogs you may well find their visits stressful as well. No-one wants to see their pet upset. Fortunately it is possible to help these dogs (and their owners) relax.

We will spend time with you and your dog working on reducing their fear of the vets and gradually showing them that the practice is a great place to visit.

This will be a gradual process which may require you to commit to many sessions which we will provide free as a service to our clients. You can help your dog's progress by practicing between sessions. Your supervising nurse will give you suggestions for homework! This may be simple handling exercises or additional visits to the practice.

The clinics are intended for dogs showing fear primarily in the veterinary surgery. The clinics may also be helpful for dogs who show fear in other situations but we would always recommend that these dogs have a full behavioural assessment. Dogs that show severe aggression will need a behavioural assessment before being enrolled in these clinics.

What should I expect? Your nurse will meet you in the car park and discuss your dog's particular fears and your concerns.

We use a process known as desensitisation and counter-conditioning to gradually change your dog's emotional response to their vet visits. We use food rewards during the training so we would prefer that you do not feed your dog prior to your visit.

You will work initially in the car park, building up to entering the practice, spending time in reception, standing on the scales, entering the consulting rooms, standing on the consulting table and eventually being handled by other

members of staff and eventually going through to the prep room and kennel area.

If your dog is very worried about other dogs we can arrange for your clinics to be at quiet times when you are unlikely to encounter another dog.

The anxious dog clinics are run by two of our qualified veterinary nurses, Emma Pridham and Gemma Sawyer, overseen by our behaviourist Emma Brown. Please pop in to the surgery or telephone the practice on 01566 772211 to discuss or book a clinic.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Dog Microchipping and ID tags**

We would like to remind you that the microchipping of dogs law comes into force on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016. If you require more information on this, please see our previous newsletter (permanently displayed on our website) or the Petlog website.

A lot of people are also not aware that their dog should wear a collar and tag at all times as well as a microchip. We have taken this extract below from Cornwall Council website:

“Under The Control of Dogs Order 1992 dogs must wear a collar displaying the name and address of their owner or on a disc attached to it when in a public place. The owner or any person in charge of the dog permitting it to be in a public place without a collar will be guilty of an offence and may be prosecuted and fined. In addition, if a dog is lost or strays this information will enable it to be reunited with its owner more quickly, causing less distress to both the dog and the owner.

As well as being a legal requirement, ensuring your dog is wearing an up to date identification tag makes it quicker and easier for the Dog Welfare and Enforcement service to return a dog to its owner, - therefore minimising the costs incurred by the owner.”

## 2015 Weightwatchers Competition Winner



Congratulations to Maisie, the Cocker Spaniel, on winning our 2015 Weightwatchers competition. Maisie is pictured here with her owner Barry Haywood and Emma Pridham, one of our nurses who assisted Maisie to reach her weight target. Maisie received a hamper of goodies worth £25 and a £25 high street voucher for her owners so they could treat themselves after all their efforts too!

We should also mention Harvey, the Labrador, owned by Suzanne Roberts, who was an extremely close runner up with only 1% difference in the bodyweight percentage lost. Well done to their owners on their hard work and determination to help their dogs have a healthier, happier life.

Would you like help guiding your pet to reach their ideal weight target, whether your pet needs to lose or gain weight? Please book an appointment with one of our qualified nurses. They will look into your pet's current diet and exercise regime and can safely advise making changes as required.

Please note there is now a one-off sign-up charge of £10 for the clinic. This charge will help cover the time taken for the nurse to work out the calorific content of your pets diet and create a plan to gain the best results. Appointments will then be scheduled as often as felt necessary for your pets plan. Progress will be closely monitored so their weight is managed responsibly and we will offer ongoing help to maintain their ideal weight once the target is reached.

## PDSA Donations

Castle Veterinary Group has been awarded a certificate from the PDSA showing a total of £2001.68 donated to them in 2015. This money has been raised through our book sale, sale of PDSA merchandise and general donations. Thank you everyone.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Launceston & District Cats Protection

Launceston & District Cats Protection have asked if anyone is interested in helping out with the following at their fundraising events:  
Unloading and reloading goods,  
Setting up and looking after a stall,  
Help serving refreshments,  
Making cakes to sell at events,  
Making craft items to sell.  
Only a few hours, a few times a year, is needed. If you are a cat lover and feel you would be able to give a little of your time to help out please contact: Trish – 01566 784921 Launceston area; Carol – 01288 353889 Bude area or Mary – 01566 773814 for either area. Alternatively you are welcome to email: [cplauncheston@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:cplauncheston@tiscali.co.uk)

\* \* \* \* \*

## February Fun Corner

### **Answer to January Horoscope Quiz:**

20 Jan – 19 Feb = Aquarius = Waterbearer  
19 Feb – 20 Mar = Pisces = Fish  
20 Mar – 20 Apr = Aries = Ram  
20 Apr – 21 May = Taurus = Bull  
21 May – 21 Jun = Gemini = Twins  
21 Jun – 23 Jul = Cancer = Crab  
23 Jul – 23 Aug = Leo = Lion  
23 Aug – 23 Sep = Virgo = Maiden  
23 Sep – 23 Oct = Libra = Scales  
23 Oct – 22 Nov = Scorpio = Scorpion  
22 Nov – 22 Dec = Sagittarius = Archer

### **February Anagram:**

How many words of 3 letters or more can you make out of the word **valentine**? We managed 60 words here, can you beat it?