



## CASTLE VETERINARY GROUP LTD

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Monday – Friday 8.30am – 6.30pm; Saturday 8.30am – 12.30pm; Sunday closed.

24hr emergency in-house veterinary cover. Consultations by appointment only.



## NOVEMBER 2016



### Fireworks Night

If you are on our e-mailing list, you should already have received our guide to helping your pet through fireworks that was sent out on 24th October. We hope that you will find it helpful.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you to think about the safety of any wildlife and outdoor animals, as well as your own pets, who may be affected by the fireworks. The poster opposite gives good advice on checking your bonfire before you light it in case it is harbouring any little wildlife, giving them opportunity to escape before it is in full force. Thank you!

(NB: If you are not on our e-mailing list and would like to be, please let us know and we can add you. You will receive your automated reminders, monthly newsletter and notification of any invitations or special offers that we may have. Your email address will be used solely for our own purposes.)

### Rat Bait Use Awareness—Do You Know How Dangerous It Can Be?

If you use rat bait in your garden sheds or garages, please be aware of the problems which can be caused to your dogs or to wildlife. Rat bait is obviously formulated to be super tasty to rats, after all we **want** them to eat it. However, it is also extremely tempting for our dogs and we have had a few recent incidents where some much loved pets and valuable working dogs have eaten enough to cause serious illness and in some very sad cases, death. If your dog seems unusually quiet or won't stop bleeding from a wound or is dripping blood from the mouth, please check to see if there is a possibility that they could have accessed rat bait. If so, please contact us urgently and we will do all we can to help.



Safe Use: Firstly, all baits should be kept in a locked cupboard and placed where there is no access for the dogs and confined so that the rats cannot drag it out. However, some dogs are very inventive in the ways that they get to this "treat" and they do manage to eat it. Rats can also retrieve bait and stash it for later, but a clever dog might find it first!

**All baits are not the same** and whilst still effective at killing rats some are less lethal to dogs than others.

One of the commonest poisonings we get at the vets is **Brodifacoum** poisoning. This is because a dog needs to eat very little of this for a lethal dose (5g bait/kg of bodyweight) and similarly a rat only needs one feed to be killed. Some single blocks or sachets contain enough to easily kill a 20kg dog.

Our advice would be to choose rat bait products containing **Difenacoum** as an active substance. Whilst not exactly "safe," products containing Difenacoum require a dog to eat 200 times more of the bait than one containing Brodifacoum before a lethal dose is reached. The trade off is that a rat needs to have 2-3 meals to be killed but as rats will feed up to 10 times a day, in one day they will easily take in enough to be killed. It is also "safer" for birds of prey eating rats/mice than Brodifacoum.

**In all cases: If you suspect your dog has eaten rat bait, you must contact your vet immediately for advice!**

## The Big Tick Project 2016 Results

Autumn is a prime time for ticks. Be tick aware and be vigilant. Ask your vet for advice on how to avoid potentially harmful tick infestations. how to protect, check, remove and dispose of ticks safely.

The UK tick population has increased by 17% in 10 years. The biggest ever UK vet study into ticks checked nearly 7000 dogs across the UK...and found almost 1 in 3 had ticks!

All dogs are at risk of ticks. It's the exposure to ticks that matters, not the dog's breed, age or sex. If you live in an area with large sheep and deer populations, then it's likely ticks will be in abundance too. The sheep tick is the most common tick in the UK.

It is especially important to get your pets checked at the vets if you take them on holiday overseas, as new research shows 76% of dogs returning to the UK from abroad had a tick infestation.

The largest ever vet study into ticks and tick-borne diseases shows the risk of new tick species and diseases are being introduced to the UK from Western Europe. The latest study out shows new tick species, such as brown dog tick, are entering the UK from abroad.

Ticks spread infectious diseases such as Lyme disease, harmful to both pets and humans, and canine babesiosis, for more information please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tick-bite-risks-and-prevention-of-lyme-disease>

For more information on any of the above and if you would like to see the results of the UK's largest vet study into ticks, including region by region breakdown, please go to: [www.bigtickproject.co.uk](http://www.bigtickproject.co.uk)



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### Fun Corner



Now the days are getting shorter and colder, no doubt we are all dreaming of sunnier climates! Just for fun, can you guess which of these cities are hotter or colder than London using average November temperatures? Some of you will remember the gameshow Play Your Cards Right from years ago, where you had to guess if the next card to be turned over would be high or lower. Why not play a similar game with these?

London's average November temperature is 10° Celsius. Here are the other cities below. The answers are upside down at the bottom of the newsletter - no cheating - although you can ask your audience to give you some help. Altogether now "Higher", "Lower"!

**Barcelona, Budapest, Cairo, Mumbai, Los Angeles, Moscow, New York, Paris, Prague, Sydney, Tokyo, Vancouver**

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### Book Sale

Our book sale throughout September and October was for Launceston Cat Protection raising £114 to date with just a couple of days left to go so this a great total. Our November and December book sale funds will be for Launceston Foodbank. We will donate the money in time for them to buy some goodies for local families to enjoy at Christmas. As always, thanks to those who donate and purchase books.

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### Staff News

Some of you may have already met Jackie Hogarth our new receptionist who started at the end of September. Jackie is working as part of our small animal reception team part-time but she will also be found helping the farm reception team when needed. Jackie is an experienced veterinary receptionist and we welcome her on board here at Castle Vets.



**Temperatures:** Barcelona 13°c, Budapest 5°c, Cairo 19°c, Mumbai 28°c, Los Angeles 17°c, Moscow -1°c, New York 9°c, Paris 7°c, Prague 3°c, Sydney 20°c, Tokyo 12°c, Vancouver 6°c.

