



CASTLE VETERINARY GROUP LTD

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Monday – Friday 8.30am – 6.30pm; Saturday 8.30am – 3.00pm; Sunday closed.
24hr emergency in-house veterinary cover. Consultations by appointment only.

SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

Caring for Autumn wildlife

Now that autumn is fast approaching, we need to think about the requirements of some of the wildlife that maybe living in our garden. Here are some top tips to help wildlife from the RSPCA:

Pruning: Try to resist hacking hedges or shrubs back too far, or if possible leave it until the start of spring as they will provide great shelter for wildlife when the weather is bad. Birds will also enjoy any seed heads that are left in place.



Bonfires: Piles of logs, twigs and leaves can be very inviting to little creatures such as hedgehogs, toads, frogs and newts. It can be hard to spot them amongst the wood so make sure you really check well before lighting the fire.



Leaves: A small piles of leaves at the back of flowerbeds will shelter insects and they will then become a food source for other animals. Worms will help dispose of the leaves plus other small mammals and even reptiles may make their homes amongst the leaves too.

Ponds: If you have a pond, autumn is a good time to clear out any debris. Leave any vegetation cuttings or clumps of soggy leaves by the side of the pond for a couple of days to allow any creatures caught up in them to be able to get back into the water. It can be a good idea to build a ramp so wild animals like hedgehogs have an easy way out if they accidentally stumble into the water.



Hedgehogs: Providing a hedgehog home in autumn can encourage them to visit, hibernate or even live in your garden. You can buy them ready made or make a natural shelter using piles of logs, leaves or compost, or even by allowing brambles or other vegetation to grow. Even a piece of board against a pile of bricks to form a shelter will help. Please don't feed them bread or leave milk down as this can cause diarrhoea. Leave a small bowl of water and feed either minced meat, chopped liver, tinned (non-fish) dog or cat food, crushed cat biscuits or specific hedgehog food until the end of October. Hedgehogs are known to travel up to a mile in one night so if you cut a CD-sized hole in your fence they can easily make their way through your garden on their journey! Remember that hedgehogs are a great help to gardeners as they love to feast on slugs and snails!



Birds: In autumn birds are moulting and preparing for winter which can be a hard time for them if food is scarce. Using bird feeders and tables is a great way for you to help them and to enjoy watching them coming into your garden. Just make sure you place any bird feeders and water bowls away from bushes to help protect them from any predators. Ideal foods for birds are suitable seeds, grains and peanuts sold for bird or human consumption—but not salted nuts! Also suitable are cooked pasta or rice, boiled potatoes, cheese, raisins and sultanas or uncooked and unsalted bacon rind. Apples, pears and soft fruits are perfect autumn food plus insects such as mealworms or waxworms. Finally, fat or suet balls attract a wide range of wild birds and are a real calorie boost. It is important to keep bird feeders and drinkers washed regularly (make sure you dry feeders before refilling) to prevent diseases spreading, as this is a real risk to garden birds.

Now you can sit back and relax and enjoy watching the wildlife in your garden!

Charity Fundraising

Our book sale throughout July & August raised £116.35 for **St Luke's Hospice**. Over the next two months we will be raising funds for **Motor Neurone Disease Association**.

One of our clients has been keeping busy making some beautiful walking sticks which have been selling very well from our small animal reception. All money raised from these sales is being donated to **Ovaid** to continue caring for Orangutans at their rescue and rehabilitation centre in Borneo. We have just had a new delivery of sticks and more will be in before Christmas if you are looking for something truly unique. If you require any specific designs, they could possibly be made as a commission item. If you provide a photo he will endeavour to carve it for you. What a great gift! We are happy to pass your requirements on for you.



Staff News

We welcome to our nursing team, Dora Malton, a second year student veterinary nurse who just started here at the beginning of September. Joining our farm reception team last month was Laura Bell who will be working with us part-time. Having just opened a small branch for farmers in Liskeard the farm receptionists will be taking it in turn to man the premises there. Sadly we also had to say goodbye to vet Loretta Francia who left us recently after many years. We will look forward to seeing her pop in from time to time with her wonderful home grown produce but will miss having her here on a regular basis.

Help Us Keep You Up To Date

If we have your email address we can keep you up to date with our latest news from Castle Vets via our monthly newsletters plus have the opportunity to invite you to any special events or notify you of urgent veterinary issues which may arise. We do not use your email address for anything other than our own use in order send you relevant information and you can always let us now if you wish to opt out at a later date.

If we just have a mobile number this will only entitle you to your pet's reminder service. So, if you would like to make the most of your registration at Castle Veterinary Group please let us know your email and we will add it to our computer system. If you opt to use email (unless you specifically want text reminders as well) we will use your email address for your pet's reminders in future.

Fun Corner

Carrying on with our wildlife theme. Did you know there are five species of owl resident in Britain? Can you name them by solving the anagrams below?

GROWLED ALONE

ROB LAWN

TILL TOWEL

TOW WANLY

WEATHERS DROOL

