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www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk



COMPANION ANIMAL NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2024

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT VET PRACTICE

Independent

Dalehead Veterinary Group is a proudly independent veterinary practice based in Settle, serving clients throughout Craven and Bowland.

Experienced

Our experienced and friendly vets, registered veterinary nurses, reception and support team are here to help you with any questions or concerns about your pets.

In-house diagnostic and treatment skills and facilities are complemented by visiting consultants. For a more unusual problem needing external referral, being independent, there is no restriction on selecting the best specialist for your pet's individual case.

Local Emergency Care

Each Dalehead vet is part of our out-of-hours on-call rota. As a Dalehead client, should you have an emergency with one of your animals, there is always someone available to help, from a team you already know.

Risk Based Preventative Healthcare

Prevention of health problems is important, and is based on risk according to each individual animal's lifestyle.

Dalehead Healthy Pet Club

Our own in-house Pet Health Plan selecting the most effective preventative vaccination and parasite prevention treatment for your pet. Great value for money with significant savings and spreading the cost with monthly payments.

Appointments

All consultations are by appointment with a wide range of sessions throughout the day: 8.30am – 6.30pm Monday to Thursday, 8.30am – 5.30pm Friday, 9am -12noon Saturday at our Settle surgery, and each weekday afternoon at our branch practice in Bentham.

Community

Proudly independent and serving our community. Supporting local groups, events and charities.

MEET THE COMPANION ANIMAL TEAM!



PREPARING FOR THE SOCIAL SEASON — NOISE PHOBIA

The social season will be soon be upon us, with bonfires, fireworks, and the Christmas and New Year celebrations just around the corner. We know that many animals become scared and anxious with loud noises; fireworks, loud music at parties, corks popping, and shooting (if you're out and about in the countryside). Different people coming into the house can also trigger the same response. Your pet does not have to suffer anxiety in the social season though, there are lots of methods to manage and treat this.

Being prepared is key, try to predict when there might be loud noises, and ensure your pet is somewhere they feel safe. You could try making the radio or TV a little louder to disguise external noise. Proactive behavior training to reduce the fear associated with the noises is the best long-term solution, but it requires commitment and may not fully resolve the problem. These fears can be deep rooted, instinctual, and part of the 'fight or flight' survival response that most animals have.

Medication can be a short-term solution. Fortunately, there are several products available;

- Medication to increase the animal's serotonin (the feel-good chemical)
- Medication to sedate them – this makes the animal feel sleepy and zoned out
- Medication which lowers their brains excitement chemicals. This means the animal responds less to all stimulus
- Calming supplements are a possible long-term option, either in food or pheromone diffuser devices are good adjunct therapy.

Whilst these medications are in general safe and effective, we try not to have our patients on these long term, although, if necessary then they can be. Normally, dogs are easier to read what they are feeling, if they are happy, excited or scared. Cats can be more of a challenge, even small changes in their behavior or demeanor should not be overlooked. See below signs to watch out for in dogs and cats.

Signs of noise phobia in dogs include:

- Looking scared (showing the whites of their eyes, tucking their tail away)
- Tremors
- Covering down or freezing on the spot
- Running from noises
- Hiding
- Becoming uncharacteristically jumpy
- Excessive barking/growling
- Attention seeking
- Destructive behaviour such as digging and chewing
- Toileting in the house.



Signs of noise phobia in cats include:

- Vocalisation
- Hiding away (or more often)
- Restlessness
- Change in litter box use
- Change in eating habits
- Lethargy
- Pretending to sleep more
- Toileting in the house (afraid to go outside).



If you would like to discuss noise phobia in your pet with one of the vets or vet nurses, please contact the office on 01729 823538.



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Check out our website www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk for more information about caring for your pet, special offers, vet and staff profiles and much more!

