

Part of the local community



As Vets and Nurses we feel it is our job to educate people about responsible pet ownership, and also to support our local community and charity events.

Hollybank, have enjoyed a very busy summer attending The Cuddington and Sandiway Gala Day, school fairs and country shows providing information and free veterinary advice. We also judged several "fun dog shows" where choosing between the various contestants was very challenging!



Early education Hollybank played host to a number of youth groups such as Beaver troops and school classes who visited us to learn about our work at the hospital, and even had a go at practising bandaging skills or dressing as a veterinary surgeon! In the classroom, younger children have benefited from presentations given by our vets and nurses, often accompanied by our resident guinea pigs Stacey and Nessa, to show youngsters how to properly handle and care for small pets.

Open Day at Hollybank At the start of September we opened our doors for our second annual charity open day, which was a huge success! Many members of the public enjoyed guided 'behind the scenes' tours of our theatres, laboratory, digital

imaging suite and animal wards, with staff demonstrations of how the specialist equipment works. Visitors were also able to look at several case studies of our patients, which outlined the story of their recovery from illness or injury with the help of the Hollybank team. Outside, were many fund raising activities; children enjoyed a bouncy castle, arts table and biscuit decorating, whilst the adults enjoyed the BBQ and the ever-popular "Granny's" cake stall. Our guinea pigs Stacey and Nessa, welcomed everyone, as did Hedgie the hedgehog that was rescued and hand reared at Hollybank.



This is the second year that Hollybank have adopted this charity, who are aiming to build a holiday home in Sandiway for sick children and their families. **This year we raised a grand total of £990.52** towards the building of this much-needed facility. So a very big 'thank you' to all those who supported our event.

The Open Day marked the end of a summer full of community work for the Hollybank team, but there are many plans in place for the winter months. We will be visiting schools and entertaining groups of cubs and brownies at the hospital, helping to educate young people about how to care for their pets correctly.



Surgery Hours

 Our friendly support staff are available all day for pet healthcare and advice.

Monday, Wednesday & Friday
8.30am - 6.30pm

Tuesday & Thursday
9.30am - 7.30pm

Saturday **9am - 12 noon**

Consultations with the vets & nurses are by appointment only. Please call to arrange a suitable time.

To ensure continuity of first class veterinary care for your pets we are proud to offer **24hr Emergency Service** here at the surgery and with your usual vets.

Call day or night

01606 880 890

www.hollybankvets.co.uk

A little tired in old age

Cats are infamous for their long snoozes and appear to be very laid back creatures, but they actually do lead very busy lives. A great deal of energy is spent defending territory, eating, climbing, checking out the mice in the shed, teasing the dog next door and ensuring plenty of attention from their owners. All this activity, can take its toll over the years and as they age, subtle changes may take place, which are not always visible to the owner. Joints can become a little stiff; hearing not so sharp and internal organs may begin to give a few problems. In older cats, **kidney failure** is very common. These organs have to work very hard forming urine, and the special nephrons in the kidneys, which help filter the blood and remove waste products, gradually disappear over time and are not replaced. With this loss, the kidneys then fail to function correctly.

If your cat is drinking excessively and urinating more, these could be signs that they have developed kidney failure. They may also vomit, lose their appetite and suffer weight loss. Blood and urine tests can be taken to confirm the condition and although incurable, there are many ways to help your pet cope with the problem. The type of treatment will depend on the level of failure. We may suggest a change in diet, medication, or possible hospitalisation for care. If you feel your pet is showing signs of kidney failure, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We provide many services that are beneficial to your pets' health and offer a full health check and blood screening, which will show the start of more hidden conditions such as kidney disease.

Frightening Fireworks



As autumn approaches again, we must think about how fireworks affect our pets. No longer used just on November 5th, with prolonged displays around

bonfire night; the celebrations at Christmas and New Year involve fireworks too. Many pets find this time particularly distressing and suffer from noise phobia, which means they overreact to loud noises such as fireworks. The effects are sometimes so great that pets can associate their phobia with other loud noises becoming fearful of thunder, gunshots and traffic.

Many owners are unaware of the extent of their pet's phobia, or believe that there is no treatment. However, there are ways to help your pet more relaxed and comfortable at this time. Some animals that suffer from very severe phobias need mood-modifying drugs, but many can be managed without resorting to drug therapy.

Five top firework tips

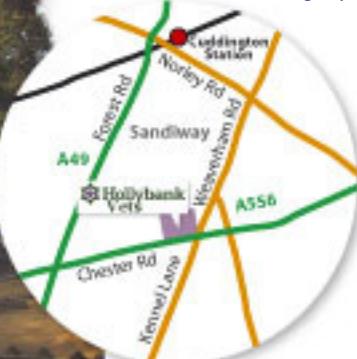
- ★ **Create a safe quiet haven** for your pet to go - away from windows - cover all sides except one. Place toys, food and water there. Ensure they can easily get in and out.
- ★ **Keep pets indoors** Cats are then protected from misuse of fireworks and stops them from running away. Do not walk dogs during firework time. Being outdoors can cause more distress and they may bolt, especially if off the lead.
- ★ **Microchip your pet** They are much easier to reunite with owners if they become lost.

Do not comfort fearful pets However hard, ignore their worried behaviour. Comforting only reinforces their worry that there is something to be worried about! Allowing access to the 'haven' is much better. Play a game; it will encourage nervous pets to be more confident. Never punish or scold a fearful pet.

Use pheromone therapy At the surgery you can purchase **DAP** (for dogs) and **Feliway** (for cats) plug-in diffusers that emit a synthetic version of pheromones that pets find comforting and is proven to help noise phobic pets. Collars, sprays and food supplements are also available to help calm pets.



For more information or advice how to help your pet cope with fireworks or other phobias this autumn, please contact the surgery to discuss the appropriate therapy for your pet.



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