



# Border Vets Newsletter

## Get ready for Guy Fawkes

### Are you ready for Fireworks season?



Our October Gala Life article outlined some of the best ways to help a fearful pet at this sometimes stressful time of year. Let us know if you would like a copy.

With only a few days to go until bonfire night you might want to pop in for a chat about how best to deal with your pet's noise phobia. We have Calmex in stock for dogs. It's a supplement that contains an amino acid called L-tryptophan which is a precursor of Serotonin that helps you to feel happy and calm.

## Blue Cross

### Border Vets are pleased to announce their partnership with the Blue Cross.

We are now able to offer one-off grants of up to 50% off a vet bill for an emergency treatment to a maximum of £200.

These grants are for emergency treatments only so don't count towards medicines for chronic illness and can't be used for investigations.

We also have Adaptil collars that release a dog appeasing pheromone. Bitches release this naturally when they have young puppies to help provide reassurance. Tight fitting pet shirts have also been shown to help. We have a full range of Medical Pet Shirts in stock.

If these complimentary therapies aren't enough for the big night then we do also have a new sedative oral gel. We started using it last year and it did prove to be easy to use and beneficial to some of the most fearful dogs. It is prescription only so please book a consultation with the vet if you think this would be helpful for your pet.

Remember, remember, it's not just the 5th November but also Hogmanay for fireworks.

In 96% of cases, firework fear gets worse with each experience



They will however be useful for things like stitching up a cut pad or removing a diseased tooth.

You must be in receipt of a means tested benefit and there are terms and conditions but we would run through these at the time with you if you think you might qualify.



## Movember

### Have you heard of Movember?

It started a few years ago to highlight the importance of men getting their prostate checked.

Lots of celebrities grow a moustache in November to show their support.

We've been doing Movember for dogs for a while too now and this year is no exception.

If you have an entire (not neutered) dog over 6 years old, pop them in for a free check to make sure everything is ok downstairs.

For entire female dogs we are offering free checks for mammary lumps too which could be breast cancer.

### See you in Movember!

## Christmas Opening

**December 23rd Saturday**  
Open at Gala as usual 9am-1pm

**December 24th Sunday**  
Closed

**December 25th Monday**  
Closed

**December 26th Tuesday**  
Closed

**December 27th Wednesday**  
Open as usual

**December 30th Saturday**  
Open at Gala as usual 9am-1pm

**December 31st Sunday**  
Closed

**January 1st Monday**  
Closed

**January 2nd Tuesday**  
Open at Gala ONLY 8.30am-6pm

**January 3rd Wednesday**  
Back to normal

**At all other times our on-call service will be available for emergencies.**

### Galashiels

Gala Terrace,  
Galashiels.  
TD1 3JT.

Tel: 01896 752156

### Selkirk

9/11 High Street,  
Selkirk.  
TD7 4BZ

Tel: 01750 21398

### Innerleithen

75 High Street,  
Innerleithen.  
EH44 4HD

Tel: 01896 830249



## Penelope's Pit-stop

We are pleased to introduce our case of the month slot to share with you some of the amazing pets' stories that make our job so interesting and rewarding. This month we've had a lot of competition. You might have seen Shadow the cat who swallowed a 20p on our Facebook page. Thankfully he passed it in the end and feels a lot better. We loved the jokes about him bringing a deposit for his account!

Penelope the two year old Ragdoll cat was very poorly when she came to see us. She was losing weight and had no appetite. She was very dehydrated and had barely been to the toilet. Apparently she was normally quite a feisty wee girl but when she came in she was very depressed and took no notice of her examination.

Initially the urgent thing we had to address was her dehydration so we started Penelope on fluid therapy which meant putting her on a drip. She did brighten up a bit but not enough to go home so once it was safe to do so we sedated her for X-rays of her tummy. With her sedated we could feel a lump in her tummy but it didn't particularly show up on the X-ray so it wasn't something hard like a stone (or a penny). At this stage we were really worried she might have bowel cancer which can affect young cats, there was

only one way to find out and that was to do an operation to open her tummy and have a look at the lump.

To our surprise and delight the lump wasn't cancer but something called an intussusception. (int-tus-sus-scept-ion). In 17 years of being a vet this was the first one I have seen so they are not all that common. What happens is that a bit of the intestine tube folds in on itself. It might happen after a spell of diarrhoea or after an infection of worms. The fold partially obstructs the passage of food so you still get some poo passing through but not much and I would imagine it is incredibly sore.

The section of intestine that was affected was badly damaged so we had to remove 10cm of Penelope's small intestine. We stitched the two ends together and kept our fingers crossed for a week that they healed without complications. Penelope felt better immediately. She was ravenous! We built her up on high calorie food and she was able to go home three days after her operation. Far from returning to feisty, Penelope was incredibly affectionate with us so it is possible that her condition had been brewing for a while and had made her feel down in the dumps. Here she is enjoying a tummy tickle back home.



### What made you want to become a vet?

When I was very young, I enjoyed being around all sorts of different animals. I then decided that I wanted to be a vet and never changed my mind.

### Where did you study for your qualification?

I studied at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in Edinburgh.

### What's your favourite part of the job?

My favourite part of the job is performing surgery.

### What do you particularly like about working here at Border Vets?

I like that I see a wide variety of different cases, and that no two days are ever the same.

### Do you have pets of your own?

When I was younger and still lived at home I had a pair of cheeky rabbits, one called Pepper and the other called Liquorice. I currently do not have any pets.

### We've heard you're into computer games. What's your current favourite?

I am currently enjoying playing The Witcher 3

### Do you have any other hobbies?

I enjoy running and I recently took part in the Great Scottish Run in Glasgow, running the 10k distance.

### What's your favourite film/tv programme?

My favourite film is a toss up between Drive and John Wick. My favourite TV programme is Community.

### What's your favourite food?

I really enjoy a good portion of Macaroni Cheese.

### Tell us something most people don't know about you?

Most people don't know that I like to juggle occasionally.

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