

# Autumn greetings from all at Prospect House

We would like to start by thanking you for your patience and understanding over the extra bank holiday marking the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II. We felt it was important for our clients and staff to be able to commemorate such an important day. Our staff were still on hand with help and advice for any poorly pets.

We hope you and your pets have enjoyed the long hot Summer we have been treated to this year. Thankfully we saw very few pets experiencing problems with heat stress, however several curious canines needed treatment after close encounters with jellyfish.

Many of your companions may be grateful as Autumn approaches and we get back to our normal climate, nevertheless this time of year brings its own hazards.

Here are some tips to keep your furry friends happy this Autumn.

## Autumn Advice

### Getting prepared for the spooky season

For more information you can head to our website and check out our [Firework Season Advice from Prospect House Vets](#).

Remember to keep checking our [Facebook page](#) too for stories on interesting cases and some features we have planned to help your pets cope with firework Season.

1 Draw curtains to keep bright lights out. Reduce impact of flashes.

2 Keep the radio or TV on to mask the bangs. Keep radio on when out of the house.

6 Keep sweet treats out of reach of pets. Remember chocolate is highly toxic for pets.

3 Cover hutches or bring indoors. Give extra bedding to allow them to burrow.

7 Check your pet's microchip is up to date in the unlikely event of them running away.

4 Try to keep Halloween decorations away from pets as can be harmful if swallowed.

8 Provide safe hiding places in your home. Cover with blankets and extra bedding.

5 Avoid letting your pet outside when fireworks are going off nearby.

9 Keep pets away from the front door so they aren't frightened by trick or treaters.



### Preparing for the dark and chilly nights

When the dark nights begin to set in they can bring certain challenges for you and your pets.

- Ensure that your dog has reflective lights on their collar, harness or lead that way you and your pet can be easily seen.
- Consider taking a torch or phone on your walk to help keep you and your pet safe when dark.
- If possible, try and walk your dog earlier when it is lighter outside.
- Keep an extra eye out for your feline friends to make sure they are home safely before it gets dark.
- Always make sure outdoor small pets and rabbits are prepared for the cold nights. Provide extra hay and hutch covers to keep them warm while keeping hutches off the ground.



### Poisonous plants

Autumn can also come with a mixture of poisonous plants, therefore it's a good idea to check that your garden is pet-safe and free from harmful plants.

1 **Ivy** (Hedera species) Ivy can cause digestive upset such as vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. Excessive drooling is a symptom of ivy poisoning.



2 **Conkers**

Conkers contain a poison called aesculin which can cause vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pain.



3 **Acorns**

Acorns contain a chemical called gallotannin that's toxic to dogs and ingestion can cause liver and kidney damage.



4 **Fungi & mushrooms**

Fungi & mushrooms begin to appear in damp, autumn months. Some wild mushrooms are highly toxic and, if swallowed, can cause kidney and liver failure.



### Back to school

Getting back into a routine of school and work after the summer holidays may seem normal, however your pets may be feeling anxious and sad to see you go.

- Separation anxiety can be a problem that occurs when it comes to getting back to everyday life.
- It's important to prepare your pet to be happy when home alone. Provide lots of safe and fun activities to prevent anxiety and boredom.
- Try filling Kong's and licky pads with your pets favourite treat to help keep them busy while they are home alone.



Wishing you a happy and trouble-free Autumn.

From The Prospect House Team