

# Keeping your pets safe this Autumn

Autumn is such a lovely season. The changing colours, leaves falling from the trees (and for many dogs, the chance to dive into leaf piles!), fresh, crisp dog walks. We love Autumn here at Newton Clarke Vets, as you can tell! But there are a few things that we need to be aware of, to keep our pets - and the wildlife we share our outside spaces with - safe, happy and healthy.

## Autumn Hazards

### Conkers and acorns

Who doesn't love a game of conkers?! If you're collecting a stash ready for a game, be careful to keep them away from your dog. Conkers - and acorns - are poisonous to dogs so make sure your dog can't eat them.

### Blue-green algae

Have you ever seen lakes or ponds with what looks like a horrible green slimy layer across the top? This is called blue-green algae and again, it's really toxic to pets. Even though it's getting cold for a dip, if you have a water-mad dog, don't let them swim in or drink water with a green scum on the surface.

### Antifreeze

You probably haven't heard of antifreeze, but your parents will know what it is! It's used in cold weather to defrost cars, but it's a very sweet tasting liquid - and you guessed it, it's poisonous to pets. Cats in particular will drink it, so make sure it's stored away safely and if any is spilled, mop it up straight away!

## Halloween Safety

Halloween is lots of fun for all the family. Lots of sweet treats, decorating the house, dressing up, carving pumpkins... who wouldn't love it? Here are our top tips to make sure your pets are happy and safe too:

- Keep sweets and chocolates out of paw's reach! Lots of sweets have an ingredient called Xylitol in them, and that's not safe for our furry friends. And we're sure you already know that chocolate is really bad for them - it's poisonous! Keep the sweet treats for yourself and your family and store them safely somewhere your pets can't reach them.
- Does your pet get scared by decorations and people dressed up, knocking on your door for trick or treat? Make them a cosy den, away from all the noise, where they can go and settle down and feel safe.
- Pumpkins are a big part of Halloween! Have you got plans to carve a really awesome pumpkin? If you're planning to light them, make sure they're kept away from your pets!



### TASK!

If your pet gets scared by fireworks, can you build them a den where they feel safe?

We'd love to see pictures of your pet's den if you do! Ask your parents to post them to our socials!

## Bonfire Night Safety

Bonfire night is on 5th November, so it's time to start thinking about it now! Does your pet get scared by fireworks? Lots of pets do! Here's how you can help them:

- You know the safe den you made for Halloween? Keep it set up for bonfire night too! Fill it with their toys and blankets so it's somewhere they're really happy to go to.
- Draw the curtains and put on some cool music that helps to drown out the noise of the fireworks for your pet.
- Make sure you keep your cat inside and walk your dog early, so they're not outside when fireworks start to go off. We don't want them to get scared and run away.
- Are you having a bonfire? Ask an adult to check it before lighting - it's not unusual for wildlife - hedgehogs especially - to have settled down into bonfires as a place they can call home.

HALLOWEEN

