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Veterinary Newsletter – Winter 2019

Happy New Year...

It's hard to believe but this month we have been in operation 3 years!

During that time we have helped treat and rehabilitate over 250 patients. We just wanted to take this opportunity to thank both our referring vets and clients, for putting your trust in us, to work with all the wonderful dogs that have come through our doors.

Here's to many more years of helping our four-legged friends lead their best life.

Why we recommend owners bring a coat to the session...

At Pawsome Paddles we recommend that owners bring a coat for their dog to wear home after their session, especially during the colder months. However, we often get asked "why do they need a coat? They have fur after all". Our response to this question is... Whilst swimming the patient utilises all their muscles which then warm up and relax. Also, the pool is heated to 30°C which keeps the patient warm throughout the session. Following their post session shower and towel down they remain warm but are still damp. When they then step outside, into the cooler air, heat exchange takes place and due to the fact the dog is still a little wet this then accelerates the exchange. This in turn means the dog loses the warmth they have developed in their muscles, which can then cause their muscles to stiffen and potentially reduce the benefit of the hydrotherapy session. By the dog wearing a coat it traps a layer of warm air between the dog's fur and the inside of the coat and therefore reduces the heat exchange process. By keeping them drier and warmer it reduces the chance of stiffness.



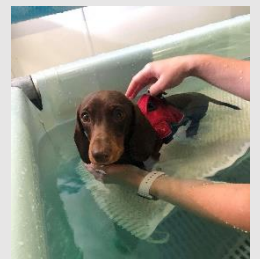
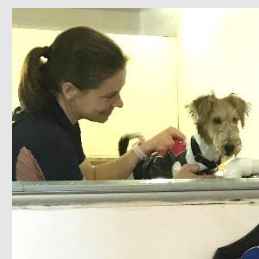
We then get asked "what's the best coat to buy my dog?". The answer to this question is that there are several good brands of dog drying coats on the market. We advise owners to buy something that isn't too hard to put on. You don't want to be pulling the dog around, especially after their hydrotherapy treatment, possibly reducing the benefits. You also want something warm and that will cover as much of the body and joints as possible. However, you don't want a coat that restricts the dog's movement or that has unnecessary clips, zips or hanging parts that could end up irritating the dog. There are several brands that we recommend to owners which include Ruff and Tumble, Equafleace, Dogrobes and Nacoco bathrobe.

Article by Kathryn Clarke MCHA, Hydrotherapist

Canine Arthritis Management

Many of the patients we see day-to-day are attending hydrotherapy due to osteoarthritis. We have found Canine Arthritis Management an excellent resource to point owners in the direction of, who have dogs suffering from this debilitating disease. Not only do they have a website packed with helpful tips and advice on home adaptations to help make a dog's life more comfortable but they frequently have web chats and now YouTube videos to keep owners even more informed and educated. We now hold the CAM cards at our centre to give to clients who have dogs suffering with OA and often share upcoming talks to our FB page. Further information can be found at...

<https://caninearthritis.co.uk/>



Our Puppy Socialisation & Swim classes have been a huge success. We are trying to accommodate the demand and have added some more dates to the diary. If anyone is interested in attending a class, then the best place to keep an eye out for upcoming dates is on our FB page.

<https://www.facebook.com/pawsomepaddles/>