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Tails of a Veterinary Practice – life at Riverside Vets as seen by Gavin the practice cat.

Hi All,

It looks like an exciting month ahead in November. One of my humans gave birth to a human kitten (I think humans call them babies actually) near the end of September. All of the other humans are very excited about meeting the new baby boy and are wishing Mum well. I am missing her as she works in the office a lot and I now have to do without company when I take my snooze in the mornings.

Back in October, I asked my humans to look ahead to this month and start preparing so that I can get through the season of fireworks without getting distressed. I must admit I am not at all fond of the loud bangs around at this time of year. Thankfully, I have my humans very well trained and they know that it is most helpful to start preparing well in advance. Don't worry though, there are things you can do to help your pet even close to the time of fireworks. My humans always make sure that the curtains are drawn tight so that I can't be surprised by any flashes of light. It also helps to leave a radio or television on to mask some of the noise of the fireworks. I have a feliway diffuser that is plugged in from September which releases calming pheromones into my room (you can use DAP diffusers for the same purpose if you have a dog). It also helps your pet if you provide safe hidey places for them during the firework period. If your pet chooses to use their hidey it is important to allow them to do this without interaction from you. Fussing them or talking to them can reinforce that fireworks are something to be afraid of. If you just allow your pet to hide and then go on about your normal routines then it helps your pet to realise that they need not be scared but allows them to follow their natural instinct of they do become frightened.

Better go now, I just heard one of my humans come up for her lunch break and I may be able to get an extra cuddle.

Gavin.