



Dissi-dense

THERE was widespread concern when improvised letter bombs were discovered at locations in London and Scotland at the beginning of the month.

The crude devices, blamed on the 'New IRA', caused relatively minor chaos, but fears were expressed the group could plan a sustained campaign.

Yesterday, we saw the level of intelligence we are dealing with.

These would-be freedom fighters actually put their own fellow countrymen and women in danger by failing to put the correct address on the package.

So patriotic are they, they also managed to misspell the name of their country too, writing 'Irelan'. Thankfully, these individuals are as limited in number as they are in expertise.

But for all that, we can't underestimate their potential to cause trouble as a no-deal Brexit keeps looming over us.

Thus far, the fallout from the ongoing chaos has been contained as both sides await a final resolution. However, regardless of which way it turns out, one or the other will be left disgruntled, their anger ripe for exploitation.

That is what groups like the New IRA are banking on and we cannot allow them to capitalise on it.

Nobody, bar them, wants a return to the dark days of the Troubles. We must not let them drag us down with them.

Rock on, lads

IT'S hardly the most daunting of tests but Ireland fans will be hoping for a lot from today's fixture against Gibraltar.

Most importantly, they will be hoping for a manager who trusts his charges to play the game the right way.

We have never been blessed with overly technical stars and our current squad is arguably one of the weakest in years. However, limited and all, we are still better than the 'lump it long' tactics of the last days of Martin O'Neill.

You only have to look at Northern Ireland to see how a good manager can impose positive tactics on players of a similar calibre.

The nation might not quite be holding its breath later this afternoon, but it will be watching with it baited.

Don't be coypu

YOU know summer's almost here when the evenings start getting longer — and giant rats start appearing in the rivers.

Four years ago Rodney the three-foot coypu first appeared in Tipperary and now others have turned up in Dublin.

Rodney is currently sharing a cage with a griffon vulture called Siobhan but is looking for others to join in. Perhaps someone could set up a vulture fund?

ODD BEHAVIOUR BUSTED

PETS can often display funny behaviour but did you ever wonder if their bizarre habits are actually a tell-tale warning sign of something serious?

Certain conditions can cause dogs and cats to act in strange ways, such as pressing their heads against a wall or even licking coal — but Ireland's top vet **PETE WEDDERBURN** says it's important to pay attention to their actions.

He said: "Animals cannot tell you when they can't see or when they have a sore head, so they display lots of different behaviours to tell us that something's not right."

"If anybody notices anything odd with their pet, they should take a video of it and bring it to the vet, because often by the time you get to the vet, the animal is behaving perfectly normally and it can be quite hard to explain."

Here, **Pete** tells **NIAMH ANDERSON** about potential signs that your pet needs a trip to the vet.



YAWNS
Your pet could be suffering from anxiety

If you notice odd behaviour, tell your vet

SMIFF OUT PET HABITS

HEAD PRESSING — brain cancer, lead poisoning, headaches (dogs and cats)

HEAD pressing is a classic sign of an animal having a headache but it could also indicate something more serious such as a brain tumour or even lead poisoning.

It is rare behaviour and is something vets would take very seriously. Sometimes elderly animals will do it if they have doggy dementia.

Typically the animal will go up to a wall and press up against it while standing. If you see your pet doing this, it's really not to be ignored.

PICA — anaemia (cats)
THIS is when an animal licks something strange and is quite common in cats. A cat might lightly lick coal, a fire place or stones if they have a condition such as anaemia.

Sometimes it's just an odd habit but it can indicate anaemia, which is a deficiency in red blood cells. If a cat starts to do this, you really should have it checked out and ask for a blood test.

PRAYING POSITION — abdominal pain, pancreatitis (dogs)

DOGS can often adopt the praying position where the front paws are down with the back legs in the air.

It generally means they have some kind of abdominal pain and are trying to stretch themselves out because it's more comfortable. There is a particular condition

called pancreatitis, which is inflammation of the pancreas, and a praying position would be a classic sign of that. A dog might do occasionally, just transiently, but if they're doing it for a sustained amount of time, bring the animal to a vet.

YAWNING AND LICKING LIPS — anxiety (dogs)

A DOG that does a lot of yawning or licking their lips could be suffering from anxiety. I notice it in dogs in the waiting room licking their lips and it is a sign that they're anxious rather than hungry.

PAINED EXPRESSION — in pain (cats and dogs)

THIS might surprise a lot of people but cats and dogs are a lot like people in the way they display pain.

The grimace scale is used for a whole range of animals to assess if they are in pain.

They test it by looking at an animal's facial expression and seeing how much it looks like a human in pain. Animals share the same facial expressions as us so by assessing how much they grimace you can work out if they are in pain or not. So if your animal looks like it's in pain, it probably is.

FALLING ASLEEP ON THE SPOT — can't breathe properly (dogs)
WATCH out for animals, particularly dogs like pugs, that look like they're falling asleep on their feet. Often

you see videos of pets nodding off on Facebook while standing and people think it's cute. But what they don't realise is some dogs do this because when they go into the fully relaxed lying down sleeping position, they can't breathe at all so they have a sensation that they are being suffocated.

If your dog looks like it's falling asleep and it keeps waking up again, it's not funny, it's very serious because it means their breathing passages are such that they cannot breathe properly when relaxed. Dogs suffering from this should have surgery to get their breathing passages widened.

TURNING IN CIRCLES — brain disease (dogs and cats)

WHEN a dog or cat is repeatedly walking in circles, that can be a sign of brain disease or a tumour.

BUMPING INTO FURNITURE — visual issues (dogs and cats)
ANIMALS can't tell us when they can't see so if a dog or cat keeps bumping into things, it can be a sign they are having visual difficulties.

SCOOTING — anal issues (dogs)
PEOPLE often think this is worms but it can be a problem with their anal glands or caused by food allergies. Food basically makes their bum itchy when its coming out. If a dog keeps doing it, it could be a sign there's an illness going on.

● **FOR** more info on pet issues, visit Petethevet.com.



Delivery . . . Garda sting

Imported car parts hid liquid cocaine

By **RICHARD McCULLEN**

LIQUID cocaine was found hidden in shock absorbers by cops when they examined a package imported from Venezuela, a court heard yesterday.

Gintaras Kaselis, 40, of St Anthony's Bachelor's Walk, Ashbourne, Co Meath, pleaded guilty to permitting a premises to be used to contravene the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Trim Circuit Court heard cops allowed the controlled delivery of a cardboard box to the industrial estate where the defendant worked as a mechanic.

Gardai called to the premises on February 23, 2012, and found the box contained two shock absorbers, but the liquid in them was found to be a mix of water and coke.

The court heard the drug would be retrieved later by burning the liquid off. Judge Martina Baxter gave him a three-month suspended jail term.



Draw . . . EuroMillions

'I thought I won few grand not half a mill'

By **CRAIG FARRELL**

A WOMAN has told how she was left speechless after finding out she scooped €500,000 in the EuroMillions Plus.

The Dubliner yesterday picked up her prize at the National Lottery HQ after her triumph in Tuesday's draw.

She said: "I'm still in disbelief! When I checked the ticket on my phone, it told me that I had won a prize but I honestly assumed it would be a couple of thousand."

"I would never have even dared to dream that it would be €500,000."

Her Quick Pick ticket was sold on the day of the draw at the Circle K petrol station on Beaumont Road in Dublin.

The winner now plans to tell her family and help them out but added: "I'll have to treat myself too, though, so I've already started looking at new cars — I can't wait to trade in my old one for a newer model."

