



Newsletter

Endell Veterinary Group, 49 Endless Street, Salisbury, SP1 3UH • 01722 333291

Christmas & New Year 2010/11

Staying Safe This Christmas ...



There are a variety of hazards to pets around the festive period, the majority of which are easily avoided with a little planning. A few of the more common problems we see are highlighted below:

Chocolate

As well as stealing chocolate left out on the side, dogs commonly also get hold of chocolate which has been wrapped and left under the tree or sent through the post. A sufficient quantity of any chocolate is poisonous to dogs, but much smaller amounts of dark chocolate will cause problems.

Chocolate contains theobromine which affects the nervous system and heart. Signs of ingestion include shaking, hyperactivity, panting, diarrhoea and can progress to seizures. Avoid giving chocolate as a treat to your pet and keep it somewhere secure, not wrapped under the tree or hanging as decorations.

Grapes, Raisins and Sultanas

As well as being one of the main ingredients in Christmas cake and pudding, these are also present in many chocolate bars. There is no specific toxic dose as different animals will tolerate different amounts; a very small quantity can cause kidney failure in some animals. Avoid leaving these fruits where your pet can reach them.

Decorations

Tinsel, baubles and coloured lights may all look like toys to your pet. Make sure they are out of reach and that your pet has plenty of their own toys to entertain them. Many decorations can cause serious problems if swallowed and require expensive surgery to remove. In addition, cables to lights will give pets an electric shock, causing burns and possible fluid accumulation in the lungs if chewed through. This is especially seen in young, inquisitive pets so take extra care to cover exposed wires.

Turkey and the Trimmings etc.

Also be aware that many Christmas foods are very rich and fatty and can give your pet an upset stomach. Think carefully before giving your pet different food over the Christmas period and keep bins tightly closed. Remember even the plastic wrapping from the turkey may appeal to a scavenging dog.

Poisonous Plants

Poinsettia, Holly and Mistletoe are all common Christmas plants which can cause vomiting and diarrhoea. Make sure they are well out of reach of pets and check regularly for fallen leaves and berries.

With a little prior planning, hopefully you should be able to avoid an unnecessary trip to the vet's over the festive period. However, if you are concerned that your pet may have encountered any of the above hazards, don't panic. Phone for advice as many are easily treated if caught early.

Worming Offer



Receive a **25% discount** on worming products when you buy a year's supply. Not all worming tablets and spot-on preparations are the same; many are only active against a limited number of worm species and life stages. Make sure you are giving your pet as full protection as possible by using prescription products from your vet on a regular basis. Speak to one of our nurses for advice on the most appropriate product for your pet's lifestyle.

Clients on our Pet Health Plan already save year round on the cost of worm and flea control as well as vaccinations, medications and procedures. The plan also allows you to spread the cost of preventative healthcare into easy monthly payments. Ask at reception about joining or call 0800 169 9958 for more information.

Please visit our new-look website: www.endellveterinarygroup.co.uk!

Diabetes Mellitus

Unfortunately dogs and cats, like people, can develop diabetes. Again, like their human companions, it is often associated with weight gain, inactivity and age.

In a healthy animal, the pancreas produces a hormone called insulin. Insulin allows cells in the body to absorb glucose (blood sugar) from the bloodstream which they need for energy. A diabetic animal may not be producing enough insulin or the body's cells may not be responding properly. This leads to high levels of glucose in the blood which is then lost in the urine. This makes the affected animal urinate more and in response drink more. Left untreated, the body will start to break down fat and muscle as, despite eating well, the body is not getting enough energy.

The signs of early diabetes often appear gradually and can be easy to miss. Early diagnosis and treatment are important to reduce the risk of serious complications developing. Common signs include:

- Increased and excessive thirst
- Increased urination
- Weight loss despite a good appetite
- Lethargy

Over the next few months we are offering **free** glucose tests, either in a nurse appointment or while you are in with the vet for another reason. This involves taking a small blood sample from a vein with a fine needle or from a pinprick to the ear or pad.

High blood glucose can occasionally be caused by other conditions. If your pet has high blood glucose on our screening test, we would then discuss with you further steps to confirm the diagnosis.

Diabetes mellitus can be well managed with regular insulin injections, but it is a serious condition and it can take some time to stabilise some patients and deal with their complications.



How to Save Money on Your Small Animal Vets' Fees ...

Pet Health Plans

At Endell Veterinary Group we believe preventative healthcare is very important and by having this in place it can save a lot of money in vets' fees by picking problems up at an early stage when they will be much cheaper to treat. Our Pet Health Plans are designed to save you money on preventative healthcare such as vaccinations, flea and worm control and offer discounts on consultations, drugs and operations (a 15-24% saving), plus you spread out the cost into easy monthly payments.

Please ask about our health plans when you next visit us or telephone 0800 169 9958 for more information.

	Monthly Premium		Monthly Premium <10kg	Monthly Premium 10-20kg	Monthly Premium 21-40kg	Monthly Premium 40kg+		Monthly Premium
Kitten	£11	Puppy	£11	£12	£13	£14		
Adult Cat	£12	Adult Dog	£12	£14	£15	£18	Rabbit	£8
Older Cat	£14	Older Dog	£12	£14	£16	£18		

January Dental Sale

We all know how painful dental disease can be, however our pets often do not show pain in easily recognisable ways and the drive to eat will override quite severe discomfort.

Signs of Dental Disease:

- Bad breath
- Yellow/brown tartar building up on teeth
- Reddened or bleeding gums
- Subdued behaviour
- Dribbling saliva
- Change of eating or chewing habits
- Pawing at the mouth
- Tooth loss

Throughout January we will be offering a **25% discount*** on all in-house dental procedures. If you are concerned that your pet may be showing any of the above signs, book them in for an appointment with one of our vets or nurses for a dental check. For early dental problems it may be that a change of diet or starting tooth brushing is all that's needed. However, pets with more advanced disease will require a general anaesthetic to scale and polish their teeth and may have some which need extracting. As well as causing pain and bad breath, infection associated dental disease can spread bacteria to the heart, liver and kidneys, causing disease in these vital organs.

**PHP clients already receive a 10% discount, so will get an additional 15% discount to take the total to 25%*

★ Please remember to ensure you order your repeat prescriptions and food in plenty of time for the Christmas break! ★

Discounted Clinic for Pensioners

Every weekday, the small animal department runs a discounted clinic for pensioners between 10am and 4pm. Any clients who are pensioners will qualify for a 10% discount (some conditions apply) on consultations, medications, Hill's pet food and operations (15% off dental procedures) booked within one month of recommendation. (Conditions apply.)

For more information or to book an appointment, please telephone us on 01722-333291.



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