

EVG Newsletter

ENDELL VETERINARY GROUP, 49 ENDLESS STREET, SALISBURY, SP1 3UH

DECEMBER 2008/JANUARY 2009

Things to Avoid this Christmas and New Year

Christmas and New Year is a time many of us look forward to and should be a time to relax and enjoy the festivities. However, it does come with a few warnings. Below are a few of the common problems that can arise at this time of the year in the clinic. Hopefully these tips may help to avoid an unnecessary vet bill.

- ★ **Chocolate** - all the more common at Christmas whether hung on, or wrapped and under the tree. Chocolate contains theobromine that affects the nervous system and heart of pets. It is in higher concentrations in dark or cooking chocolate, so these are definitely to be avoided. Signs associated with ingestion of chocolate can be panting, shaking, vomiting and diarrhoea, and even seizures. Signs depend on the quantity ingested, so smaller dogs eating as little as 100g of dark chocolate can be in real danger! Remember to keep it out of harm's way and not to offer it as a treat.
- ★ **Poinsettia** - this green and red plant is commonly associated with Christmas. It contains diterpine esters that, although in low concentrations, are toxic. Generally signs of eating Poinsettia are vomiting, diarrhoea and stomach pain. These are not generally life threatening, but can lead to a very unwell pet. Keep this plant out of easy reach and it shouldn't pose a problem.
- ★ **Holly** signifies the festive time, but does contain several toxins. The leaves generally aren't eaten, but fallen berries can be easily consumed. These again can lead to vomiting and diarrhoea.
- ★ **Mistletoe** - another berry-containing plant used for decoration at this time of year. The leaves are more toxic than the berries, but both can cause vomiting and diarrhoea as well as nervous problems in more severe cases! The odd mistletoe or holly berry won't kill, so if well secured high up and you check for any fallen leaves/berries, there is no reason to throw it away.
- ★ **Electrocution** - Christmas lights lead to extra cables lying about that are not always as robust as usual. Usually the younger and more inquisitive animals can give them a quick chew and get electrocuted. Electric shock can cause burns, usually to the mouth if bitten, as well as fluid accumulation on the lungs. Try to cover any loose cabling if at all possible to limit what is accessible to interested pets.
- ★ **Raisins and sultanas** are the main ingredients of Christmas pudding and cake, but can be fatally toxic to pets, especially dogs. The reason is still somewhat unclear but ingestion can cause severe intestinal upsets and kidney failure. As little as 10g per kilogram of body weight can have severe consequences!!! Just make sure it's not left about for your pet to scavenge and avoid giving cake or pudding as a treat.
- ★ **Foreign bodies** - remember that tinsel and baubles, if ingested, can be very traumatic on the intestines. Tinsel can get caught around the tongue and then have a cheese-wire affect on the intestine. Baubles will break into sharp pieces that can pierce the gut. Both will have very serious affects. Keep tinsel and baubles out of easy reach and have other safe toys around to entertain them.

Some of these may be a bit of a surprise to you. There is no need to worry, however, and simply being aware should avoid any hazards. If you are at all worried about any of these phone us for advice, it's possible to treat some of these very easily if caught early.



Fireworks and Noise Phobias in Dogs

You may be wondering why we're writing about fireworks now, since the main firework season is now over. The reason is because about 50% of the canine population have recently been suffering from fear of fireworks. Sadly, most owners are unaware that their pet is suffering, as dogs use certain coping mechanisms so that they may only display subtle signs of fear that are unfortunately considered to be normal. Examples of these signs are salivating, pacing, whining, trembling or hiding. With many cases of dogs with phobias, there are simple ways of helping your dog to be less frightened in the short-term and then looking to treat the noise phobia in the long term.

After New Year, we will enter the quieter period of the year and this is the ideal time to put into action long-term treatment of noise phobias. With this in mind, Endell Veterinary Group would like to invite all of our clients to come to a free talk regarding noise phobias and long-term treatment on **Monday 19 January 2009 at 8.15pm** at St Gregory's Hall, St Gregory's Road, Salisbury. Refreshments will be served from 8pm. If you would like to attend, please phone the practice on 01722-333291. Directions to the hall are available on request.

Christmas and New Year Opening Times

Wednesday 24 December
..... 8.30am to 5pm, by appointment
Christmas Day and Boxing Day
..... Emergencies Only
Saturday 27 December
..... 8.45am to 5pm, by appointment
Sunday 28 December
..... Emergencies Only
Wednesday 31 December
..... 8.30am to 5pm, by appointment
New Year's Day
..... Emergencies Only
Friday 2 January onwards Normal hours
In case of emergency, please call:
01722-333291



Canine Heart Checks

Almost one in four dogs over the age of seven have a heart problem, so it's a condition that we see at Endell Veterinary Group on a regular basis. Initially there may be no signs of disease as the body is able to cope. However, over time symptoms start to develop such as coughing, reduced appetite, or a reluctance to go for the usual walks. At this point we may start treatment to control these symptoms, allowing your dog to enjoy life for as long as possible.

Recently a paper (the QUEST study) has been published with important information on how to prolong the lives of dogs with heart problems. For three months from 1 December, Endell Veterinary Group will be running the "Canine Heart Check" initiative. This invites owners of dogs who have been diagnosed with heart disease, whether they are on medication or not, to come in to the practice to discuss their dog's condition and treatment with one of the vets at a **free cardiac check-up**.



We will soon be contacting those of you whose dogs suffer from heart problems and, of course, if you own a dog which has been diagnosed with heart disease, feel free to phone the practice on 01722 333291 to find out more about this initiative. You can find more information on the QUEST study at www.questtrial.com.

Mobile Surgery Timetable

NB: Instead of Morgans Vale Village Hall, we now visit The Old Inn at Woodfalls

Day	Location	Time
Monday	Winterslow	9am to 1pm
Tuesday	Whiteparish	9am to 1pm
Wednesday	Downton Woodfalls	9am to 10.30am 11am to 1pm
Thursday	Winterslow	9am to 1pm
Friday	Woodfalls Downton	9am to 10.30am 11am to 1pm
1 st Wednesday of Every Month	Bishopstone	2pm to 3pm

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

Worming the Cat!



A worm burden can affect your cat significantly in several ways. The worms will have a damaging effect long term on the gut wall, which reduces digestive function and affects the general health of your cat. Worms in the gut produce eggs which are shed in the faeces. These eggs will then remain in the environment and infect your cat when it is exploring outside, or can be picked up by other hosts such as mice and other rodents. In the rodents they form larvae, which can again be transmitted to your cat if they catch these rodents. Tapeworms can also be transmitted to your cat if they get fleas. Fleas can contain the larval stages of tapeworm, so if groomed and eaten by your cat they will be infected. As well as this, some roundworm eggs have the potential to affect humans, so it is very important for you and your cat that it is regularly wormed. Current recommendations would suggest worming the average cat four times a year, and as frequently as monthly for a cat that hunts a lot, against round and tapeworm. This has been made easier by the introduction of a prescription-only medicine, Profender, which is a spot-on wormer that treats both round and tapeworms and thus avoids the problem of giving tablets. This wormer is the first of its kind and makes life less stressful for both parties. As of 1 December 2008, it will be available at a special discounted price, so please ask at reception for details.



Following government medicines regulations that came into effect on 1 November 2005, we would like to advise you of the following changes:

Prescriptions are available from this practice. You may obtain Prescription Only Medicines, Category V, (POM Vs) from your veterinary surgeon **or** ask for a

written prescription and obtain these medicines from another veterinary surgeon or a pharmacy.

Your veterinary surgeon may prescribe POM Vs only for animals under his or her care. A prescription may not be appropriate if your animal is an in-patient or immediate treatment is necessary.

You will be informed, on request, of the price of any medicine that may be prescribed for your animal.

The general policy of the Small Animal Department of this practice is to reassess an animal requiring repeat prescriptions every six months, but this may vary with individual circumstances. The standard charge for a re-examination is £16.00 during the day, £18.25 in the evenings or £22.25 at weekends.

The current prices for the ten POM Vs most commonly prescribed or supplied during a typical three month period are displayed in our waiting room. Further information on the prices of medicines is available on request.

From 1 November 2008, written prescriptions are £7.10 per item.

Repeat prescriptions are available at forty-eight hours' notice, Monday to Friday.

All of us at Endell Veterinary Group would like to wish you all a very

