

Consultations by appointment.  
Please call our reception team  
on 01302 534999.  
We are open from 8am to 8pm.

**Consultation times**

Mon – Fri  
9:00am – 11:30am  
1:00pm – 2:20pm  
3:00pm – 4:30pm  
5:30pm – 7:30pm

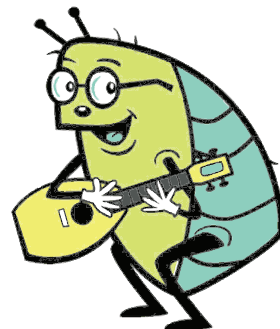
Saturday  
9:00am – 11:50am

**Nurse Clinics**

Mon, Wed and Fri  
11:30am – 12:30pm  
4:30pm – 5:10pm

## WINTER FLEAS

Fleas are no longer a seasonal pest. With houses having central heating they can now breed all year round in carpets, bedding and even in the cracks of hard flooring. Flea treatment should ideally be used every month as female fleas can lay over 50 eggs per day – thus a brief infestation can result in thousands of flea eggs being produced! We will be happy to discuss appropriate flea treatments for your pet and your home.



## SEASONAL STRESS

November and December can be a very enjoyable part of the year for us all but can be extremely stressful for our pets.

A stay in a kennel or cattery, parties, fireworks at New Year and even the arrival of a new pet are but a few causes of stress.

**Common signs of stress shown by an animal include;**

- Frequent pacing
- Altered appetite
- Repeated vocalisation
- Behavioural problems such as over grooming.
- Cats can withdraw into themselves and stop playing and socialising. Cystitis is also common in stressed cats.

Zylkene® is a natural product proven to help pets manage in many common stressful situations. It can be mixed into food and has not been associated with any side effects.



If you wish to know more about Zylkene please feel free to phone or call in to the Hospital and we will be happy to discuss its benefits.



*Enjoy this time of year – but ensure your pets do too*

## Winter Weight!!!

With pets spending more time indoors during the winter months it is a good idea to keep an eye on how much exercise your pet is getting. Less exercise means your pet needs less food. The festive season can also be a reason to give more treats and so it is easy for pets (and us) to start expanding our waistlines!

If you think your pet is putting on a few extra pounds and would like some advice our Veterinary Nurses can arrange a free weight consultation to help you with this.

**Please phone 01302 534999 to arrange an appointment.**

## Offers

### DENTAL OFFER

Until 31st January we are offering  
**33% discount**  
on all dental treatment.

*Give your pet a "Breath of fresh air" before Christmas*

Scan with your smart phone QR Reader



## Healthy Pet Club

Want to **save 10%** on all Vet bills?

Want to **save 20%** on certain lifetime medications?

Ask about our Healthy Pet Club or go to [www.thehealthypetclub.co.uk](http://www.thehealthypetclub.co.uk)

# SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR THE WINTER



## Cold weather

Most dogs will love to play in the cold and snow but finer haired breeds will not be able to conserve heat as well as thicker coated breeds and will benefit from a dog coat.

## Seasonal Poisons - food

Christmas is a time of enjoyment for all the family but can be a particularly dangerous time for dogs and cats. Things we think of as treats can pose a significant risk to our pets and care should be taken to prevent exposure to these substances.



**CHOCOLATE** (Theobromine) – The severity of poisoning depends on the amount eaten but also the type of chocolate (i.e. milk or dark). Signs of poisoning include vomiting and diarrhoea in mild cases. More severe cases can present with hyperactivity, a very fast heart rate, high temperature, muscle rigidity and convulsions. Treatment can be given once poisoning occurs but as always – “prevention is better than cure”.

**GRAPES, RAISINS, CURRENTS AND SULTANAS** – These can cause kidney failure but the exact mechanism is unknown. The toxic dose is unknown with some animals developing kidney failure after only a few grapes or raisins. Treatment is available but poisoning can be fatal. Foods to watch out for are Christmas cake/pudding, stollen and mince pies.



**NUTS** (peanuts and Macadamia nuts especially) – Signs include vomiting and diarrhoea but can progress to tummy pain, weakness and collapse.

## ONIONS/LEEKS/GARLIC/SHALLOTS/CHIVES

These can cause problems raw or even when cooked (Onion Gravy/Stuffing etc). Signs include vomiting and diarrhoea followed by severe anaemia 1 to 5 days later.

## Seasonal Poisons – Plants

**Mistletoe** – ingestion can result in retching, vomiting, diarrhoea and weakness.



**Holly** – As well as cuts to the mouth, ingestion can cause drooling, retching and vomiting.

**Ivy** – In rabbits, ingestion can cause muscle twitching, paralysis, convulsions and death.



**Poinsettia** – ingestion can be irritating to the stomach and mouth.



**Lilies** – although not strictly a Christmas plant these are VERY toxic to cats. All parts of the plant are toxic even pollen which can be groomed off the cats coat if your cat brushes against a flower. It takes less than one leaf to cause severe kidney failure. **If you have cats DON'T HAVE LILIES!!**



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT YOUR PET HAS EATEN SOMETHING POISONOUS

### Do's

#### Stay calm.

- If you suspect your pet has been poisoned then contact your local veterinary practice immediately.
- Retain any product packaging and take these with you to the veterinary surgery. Often your veterinarian will need to know the exact chemical which your pet has been exposed to, and bringing along this sort of information may help your pet receive appropriate specific treatment.
- Retain any plant / fungi / other material samples carefully and take these with you to the veterinary surgery.
- If your pet has a chemical on its skin or fur then if possible wash your animal thoroughly with lukewarm water and a mild detergent such as soap/ shampoo or washing up liquid, being careful to get none of the detergent in your pet's eyes. Once you've done this ensure that your pet is thoroughly dried.

### Don'ts

- Do NOT attempt to treat or medicate your pet yourself. Some human medications may be poisonous to your pets.
- Do NOT attempt to make your pet vomit. Some substance used to make your pet sick can themselves be poisonous e.g. salt water.
- Do NOT 'watch and wait' in any case of poisoning or suspected poisoning.

**Contact the hospital on 01302 534999 24 hours a day if you are concerned at all about seasonal poisons.**



## Christmas emergencies – what do I do?

A dedicated emergency and critical care service is provided by **VetsNow** using our Hospital premises. Their staff provide care for your pets when the Beechwood staff leave and are here from 8pm to 8am on weekdays and 12pm Saturday to 8am Monday.



**If you have an emergency please call 01302 534999 and you will be able to contact VetsNow Staff for advice or an appointment.**