



cheltenham
VETERINARY CLINIC
nurturing the human animal bond

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Remember to get your pet vaccinations up to date if you are planning on travelling over Xmas with your pet. Many parks, beaches and pet friendly motels require pets to be fully vaccinated. Get it done now and that's one thing you can tick off your 'to do' list.

While we are talking trips away, it may pay to practice your dogs training skills. In an unfamiliar area, you will want your dog to respond to your calls to sit, stay, stop and come back. Refresh your dogs memory about walking on a leash as being dragged everywhere isn't much fun. A few sessions going over these basic commands will make the holidays more fun for everyone.



**Christmas
&
New Year
Hours of
Trade.**

**We will be closed from
Christmas Eve and will
Reopen on
3rd January 2023.**

Watermelon is mostly 92% water and makes a nice treat that will hydrate your dog on a hot day. It also contains nutrients such as potassium vitamins A, B-6, and C. Remove the seeds, chill the fruit, and your dog (and possibly your cat) will have a cooling snack.

December 2022

Merry Christmas!

Cheltenham Veterinary Clinic wish all our clients, friends, pets, and associates a wonderful Christmas season and a blessed new year.

Once again at this time of the year, I am sure you will be aware that pets will be tempted by your beautiful Christmas tree (secure it if possible to the ceiling or walls) that urges them to explore the wonders of your latest toy. There is nothing so terrifying as the tree crashing down during the dead of the night. Temptation also lurks when food is left unguarded and within their reach, and anything that is bright, shiny, can be moved, licked, or eaten will be like a magnet for our curious, adventurous, and mischievous dog or cat. Even a mature cat or dog cannot seem to resist the lure of the Xmas tree, those shiny glass baubles, and tinsel that can get them into trouble if chewed or swallowed! It is hard to keep up with what those pets are up to at this time of the year. Maybe this year Santa will give you those eyes in the back of your head that you so desperately need at these times.

Safety Tips For Pets during Christmas.

It can be quite terrifying for a new or a young pet when strangers invade their home. Strangers who could step on small pets, or children who find a pet an ideal opportunity to chase and tease. Plan ahead about what you can do to help your pet survive Christmas. Here's a few tips. **Before your guests arrive at your home on Christmas day, exercise your pets. It will relax them (and you) and with luck, they can sneak away to have a nap once everyone has arrived.**

Create a safe and quiet place for your pet to escape to should the festivities get too much. Have a retreat room for them where guests won't disturb them. Play some soft music and provide plenty of perches, pet beds etc to chill on. And make sure the room has water, a bit of a snack, and the air temperature is not too hot nor too cold. You may need to lock the room so kiddies don't sneak in.

Older pets will often try to beg food from the table from unaware strangers who don't realise that some foods are toxic to animals. Make a rule that guests should not feed your adorable pets no matter how cute or persuasive those pleading eyes are. Keep tinsel or tree lights away from pets to avoid the risk of choking or an electrical shock. And protect your pets from overenthusiastic kiddies.

Yes it is Christmas and pets do deserve a treat, just make it a pet friendly treat so that we can all enjoy the day. Merry Christmas to all pets that bless our home and family.

Keep in touch and follow us here.

Our Facebook Page—click the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/cheltenhamvetclinic/>





Our Focus for December.

You may have noticed that we are focusing on keeping your pets happy and healthy over Christmas. While dental care, health checks and parasite protection are always important, Christmas often raises many health issues that are not usually an issue during the year. Everyone is so busy leading up to Christmas, that owners can forget how pets view this time of year. Some may feel a bit dejected or anxious at all the changes that December brings. While other pets realise quickly the opportunity around the home that their owners are not aware of. And the fact is ... you cannot trust your pet. If it's a toss up between food and doing what they 'should' do, the food will win every time. You can tell your pet 'no!' as many times as you like, but if your back is turned and your attention is diverted, they will grab any food and gobble it at the speed of light. It is only after the event that the problems start. So watch those sneaky pets.



Christmas can Be Stressful—This is where Exercise Can Help.

In the rush leading up to Christmas day, anxiety can easily set in with deadlines putting people under enormous pressure. Often pets can feel a bit neglected as they don't understand why their family are all over the place but have no time for them. Exercise does take time, but it is worth it. Ensure you still go walking with your dog, or play with your cat or other pets just as you normally would. The best way to keep pets out of trouble or from under your feet, is to wear them out with some timely exercise. Walking and swimming are ideal for dogs, but cats will enjoy chasing a small ball, 'killing' a new soft toy, or climbing up and down on some inbuilt kitty shelving on your wall.

Both you and your pets will benefit from the exercise.

And the payoff for you is that when you get home, you will be more energised than ever and can get more done. So if you have a lot things on your plate (figuratively speaking) grab your pet and workout. Your pet will be happier and will then be content to let their human do their rushing around thing while they doze off in the sun dreaming about their next adventure.

Christmas Gift Ideas for your pet.

Dogs are the easiest to buy for as they will be pleased with just about anything. But a drinking fountain for plenty of fresh cool water would be nice. Or perhaps a new outdoor bed for those afternoons where they can snooze under the shade of a tree.

Perhaps a chill-out bandana where you soak the bandana in water and put it around your dogs neck on a sweltering afternoon. Or a new squeaky toy to be destroyed on Christmas day. A ball will do quite nicely, and will tone your arm muscles as you spend your afternoon throwing for your dog. Even better, get a tennis ball launcher and you will have a little peace.

Cats are a little harder to please than dogs who are happy with even an old sock from their owner. The water fountain would please the most fastidious cat and will keep them hydrated. Perhaps a cat climbing post with built in scratching boards. A cat tunnel would keep kitty busy and would be an ideal vehicle assisting their surprise assaults on bare feet that walk past, or maybe a cat perch by a window (which should be kept closed so they don't launch themselves out of it in an effort to catch a bird). This would be perfect for Christmas day if your cat is feeling less than social and they will be out of reach of any young human.

Rabbits and Guineapigs respond well to a fresh pile of food, some shade and a new bed to snooze on. A new birdcage for your feathered friend. And you've got Christmas covered!

Funny Christmas Jokes.

Why did no one bid for Rudolph & Blitzen on Ebay?

Because they were two deer!

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?

A Christmas quacker.

Who delivers presents to baby sharks at Christmas?

Why, Santa Jaws, who else lol !

Warmest Wishes for a Merry Christmas



Christmas Food Warning

Christmas foods can involve some of the most toxic and dangerous substances that can harm your pet. Don't give in to those puppy dog eyes and be careful where you leave food. Animals can be very cunning when access to food is easy to get and just small amounts of some of these foods can be fatal.

- Avocados
- Alcohol
- **Chocolate - baking chocolate and cocoa powders are also toxic.**
- Christmas pudding
- Coffee
- Cooked bones
- Currants
- Fruit Cakes
- Grapes
- Lollies
- Ham
- Macadamia nuts
- Marinades
- Onions
- Pork
- Raisins
- Sugarless gum

If you think your pet is having a reaction to something they have eaten, seek veterinary advice asap.

Symptoms include:

- Diarrhoea
- Excessive panting
- Lack of coordination and staggering around
- Muscle twitching
- Poor breathing and finally—Vomiting

Ho Ho Ho



Additional Items.

Even the flowers will demand inspection from a curious pet, and as many flowers are poisonous to pets if eaten, that is just another way your pet can get into trouble. Poinsettias, holly, mistletoe and all lilies are dangerous for pets whom chew the foliage or flowers.

Tinsel & Ribbons aka 'cat magnets'. Cats are drawn towards anything that dangles, moves or can be attacked. Swallowing ribbon or tinsel will land you and your kitty at the emergency vets.

Salt Dough Ornaments—These cute and seemingly innocent items contain a mountain of salt which can be fatal to pets if eaten. **KEEP THESE WELL OUT OF THEIR REACH** and explain to small kiddies why their best furry friend cannot have these.

Chocolate is not your pets best friend. And low fat choc which is often made with Xylitol can be toxic and fatal to your pet.

Any treat/cakes/ sweets with Xylitol should be avoided for pets. Even peanut butter can contain this chemical so please read the labels.