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MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Just a message to be extra vigilant about what your pet eats over the festive season. Don't share human food with them and think twice before leaving food in places that might be accessible to them. Some foods such as avocado, macadamia nuts, ham, grapes, raisins, and chocolate can cause internal damage and in serious cases it can be fatal.

Resourceful pets can find a feast in handbags, gifts under the tree, food left on tables and they can hijack the rubbish bins. Also be aware of alcoholic drinks left on a low table. A thirsty pet will try anything for a drink, and alcohol and pets is not a safe mix. Of course, they want to join in the festive fun, so do give them some special treats but make it a pet species appropriate treat and then everyone will be happy and healthy.

Welcome to our **DECEMBER 2019** Newsletter.

The team at Cheltenham Veterinary Clinic would like to take this opportunity to wish all our clients and their pets a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS**. As the holiday season is upon us, we find ourselves reflecting on the past year and those who have helped to shape our business. It's been quite a year for us all! We hope that 2019 has been just as memorable for you and your loved ones. We look forward to working with you in the years to come. Summer is now upon us and once again we remind people not to leave their pets in a car as the temperature in an enclosed car can soar to incredible heights in minutes with fatal consequences. Ensure your pet has plenty of shade and water at home, and if your pet is inside, draw the blinds in some areas to provide relief from the sun. Leave on the ceiling fans to help them keep cool. It will be a welcome relief to you when you arrive home from work to a lovely cool home and a happy pet!



TIPS ABOUT PET SAFETY and CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS!

Food is not the only thing pets will try to eat at Christmas. Toxic plants and flowers, power cords, lit candles, and delicate sharp ornaments can become part of their diet as they explore these new toys and test them at their peril. Here are some pet friendly tips for keeping your furry friend safe at Christmas and [contact us](#) if you need us.

Secure your Christmas tree safely to the floor, wall or ceiling so it can't be tipped over. Use battery or solar operated candles to prevent fires. Decorate the home with shatterproof ornaments e.g. made from plastic, wood or paper. LED lights are cool to the touch, durable and energy efficient. If you are going out, unplug lights and other electronic decorations. If you have a real tree, the pine needles can be toxic to pets if chewed and consumed. And if you have cats, forget about the tinsel as ingesting this can result in costly surgery.

Our information packed website for healthier + happier pets is;
<http://www.cheltenhamvet.com/>

Time for a laugh!

Why does Santa use reindeer to pull his sleigh? Because huskies can't fly!
How do reindeer amuse themselves through the long year? They play stable tennis!

Christmas isn't about candy canes or lights all aglow; it's the hearts that we touch and the care that we show.





EAR INFECTIONS

If your pet is a bit irritable and scratching their ear a lot, they may have an ear infection. Try making an ear inspection part of your grooming routine. Be very gentle and clean the ear with a damp soft cloth and a solution made for specifically cleaning the ears. These can control the growth of organisms that can cause ear problems from swimming or humid air. Gently remove any seeds that may be in the ear, and check for redness or discharge. Don't push into the ear canal as it is a very delicate area and can damage your pets hearing. If your pet's ears are infected, bring them in [for treatment](#). We can help treat the infection and clear it up. Floppy eared pets are often more prone to infection in the moist inner ear.



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DENTAL CARE FOR PETS. 🎄 🎄 🎄 🎄 🎄 🎄

Dental disease or periodontal disease is the inflammation of the teeth and gums caused by a build-up of plaque. But what is plaque? It is made up of food particles, saliva and bacteria that stick to the tooth surface and if not brushed away will calcify into tartar. Once it has calcified your best option is to bring your cat or dog into us for a scale and polish. Your pet will be sedated so that they don't stress or move about during the process. Once your pet's teeth are cleaned, then a daily brushing at home is all that is required to keep dental disease at bay. Never use human toothpaste for your pet as it is too strong and will upset their stomach. Special pet toothpastes have flavours such as chicken and beef which helps make the teeth brushing procedure more acceptable to pets. You can also get chew toys such as 'Kong' or 'Gumabone' that help keep their teeth healthy and clean. With any health issue, early detection is important as treatment is quicker and more effective in the early stages of a disease. Please contact Bentleigh Veterinary Clinic to arrange a [dental check](#) for you cat or



Please check out our Facebook page – it is regularly updated and covers a wealth of information.

[Click here for Facebook.](#)

Snail Bait Toxicity. Gardeners around the county are once again battling to keep the snails from munching away at their gardens. Snail bait is widely used and is very effective. Sadly, snail and slug bait are extremely toxic when ingested by our pets. A toxic compound called metaldehyde is the culprit. Dogs are notorious for getting into things they shouldn't, and snail bait in chewable pellets that are flavoured with molasses, apple and bran also attract our dogs. These formulations can also contain insecticides which make the product even more toxic to pets. Symptoms of snail bait poisoning include anxious behaviour with mild twitching, which progresses to uncontrollable muscle twitching, seizures and possibly death. Treatment requires possible induction of vomiting, IV fluid support, stomach pumping and enemas to help rid the toxin, and charcoal to help absorb any substance remaining in the body. If you suspect your pet has ingested snail bait, bring them immediately to us for assistance. Recovery depends on how much poison was eaten, and how quickly you can get them [veterinary assistance](#).

🎄 **MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE!** 🎄

Is Your Pet Suffering from Joint Pain? We see pets of all ages show up in the clinic feeling a bit sore. Younger pets get excited and leap off the bed only to land the wrong way and hurt themselves. With older pets it could be certain developmental issues which make moving around a real chore. If you observe your pet walking around a bit funny, or maybe they have difficulty getting up or down the steps, then it may be time to bring them into us for a bit of a [health check](#). As with most things, the earlier we can find and treat a problem, the easier it is to cure.

This, the spirit of Christmas, that forever and ever endures, may it leave its richest blessing in the heart of you and yours!