



Practice Newsletter

December 2017

Festive Season Hazards

Each year problems could crop up with pets at Christmas which with a little foresight can often be avoided. It is important to keep temptation firmly out of your pets reach to prevent an unscheduled trip to the vets. Rest assured, at Animates its service as usual.

If you are worried or concerned about your pets health or if your pet suddenly falls ill over the Festive period we will be able to help. Animates provides an all year-round, 24 hour service, with our own vets on call and our own Qualified Registered Veterinary Nurses who work on site at all times.

We would like to ensure you all enjoy a safe, happy, festive time so here are our top tips;

Stay Alert

Turkeys can provide an irresistible challenge for pets, so take particular care to place a frozen bird in a safe place while you are defrosting it. Otherwise, your cat or dog may jump up and simply help themselves.

It won't just be the turkey: Christmas cakes, mince pies, cheese straws - all are fair game for pets and not only may you lose irreplaceable food, you can also end up with smashed plates.

After Christmas be careful how you dispose of any leftovers including bones or the turkey carcass. Avoid leaving the remains in a bin bag where it would be easily accessible to pets as turkey bones are usually sharp when snapped, and they can easily stick in an animal's throat or intestinal tract where they could cause life threatening obstructions or perforations.



Chocoholic Dogs

Dogs may gulp down the contents of an entire box of chocolates in minutes, eating wrappers and all. If this happens, there is a distinct likelihood that your pet will become poorly.

Hopefully, there will be no serious symptoms, but chocolate naturally contains a chemical called theobromine which is poisonous to dogs. If your dog has eaten chocolate then contact the practice immediately for advice, giving as much information as possible including type and amount.

Table Manners



Other pets such as birds may have sensitivities to certain foods. Avocado is known to be fatal to parrots and canaries, so never offer this as a Christmas treat from the salad bowl.

Vegetables will be readily eaten by many birds. Larger parrots love nuts such as walnuts and hazelnuts, while the bigger macaws can even crack Brazil nuts without difficulty. You may have to break the nuts in some cases, but this can help to keep your bird amused.

If you are preparing carrots, grate off some thin slices for a pet canary, while budgies can manage to destroy thicker chunks. Cooked vegetables like peas and broccoli are good choices and it is better if they are cooked without any salt.

Sweet corn is a particular favourite of many parrots, especially Amazons, while dried fruits from the Christmas pudding may be fine in very limited quantities, but not if it has been laced with alcohol.

Salted peanuts, crisps and other similar snacks are not suitable fare for parrots. Unfortunately though, if offered to a parrot, it may eat them regardless, and then fall ill. While a digestive upset for us is unlikely to be fatal, it can be very serious for a parrot. Despite temptation most pets and birds do not actually like to drink alcohol, it is likely to prove to be poisonous if given in any volume. Stick to water. Should you be faced with a poorly bird over the festive period please contact the practice.

Plant Problems

The popular poinsettias, with their red leaves look stunning among the Christmas decorations but they are among those plants which could be deadly to birds. Ivies and winter cherry are also reputedly toxic and are potentially dangerous to house rabbits as well if left within their reach.

Tree Watch

Christmas trees can also present problems. They need to be firmly supported, to avoid being knocked over by pets.

Try placing plastic decorations on lower branches to deter your cat from being attracted by the shiny baubles which can shatter when played with.

The Tree also offers a great view for any pet birds and an opportunity to perch, but it's not a good idea to allow your pet bird to settle on your Christmas tree. You're likely to find that branches might be nibbled and ornaments may be dislodged. There's also a risk of possible poisoning if you have sprayed anything on the tree, should your pet develop a taste for fake snow as an example.



Beware also of needles from the tree, these can stick in the paws or skin of pets causing pain, or could even end up with loose needles sticking in a birds plumage. If you suspect this has happened you may want to contact the practice for advice. Finally remember to regularly check the cable on your Christmas tree lights to make sure it hasn't been secretly nibbled.

Party Time

Fireworks and loud noises can be upsetting for all pets. Make sure that you are prepared for the festive celebrations by finding out about the range of products we have available which can be used to help your pet cope with the anxiety and fear of fireworks and loud noises. Some of the products take time to work so it is best to come and see us as soon as possible.

If you are holding a party, it may be better to transfer your pets including your pet bird to another part of the house where guests will not be congregating. Otherwise the event could be rather stressful for your pet, having to become acquainted in a short space of time with so many virtual strangers.

On the Move

If you're invited to stay with friends or relatives for the Christmas or New Year period this can pose problems with the care of your pets as they should not be left on their own for any length of time and it is definitely not responsible to leave a bird or rabbit on their own for more than a day as accidents can happen, or they may fall ill.

If you use a boarding facility, ensure you get them booked in early. Otherwise find out if help could be at hand in the guise of a reliable friend or neighbour. You may want to contact Kittymates which is run by one of our qualified nurses who will make home visits to feed and care your cats.

If finding a volunteer is not likely then be prepared to ask your hosts if they are happy to accommodate your pets. If you're taking your pet bird they should be transferred in a special carrying box.

Don't forget to take your pets normal food, treats and medication. Ensure you have a sufficient supply to last right through the festive period, if for no other reason than it's something not to have to worry about when you should be relaxing!

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES - Do you have everything you need?

During the festive period our trading hours will be different from normal so please remember to order enough supplies of your pets food and repeat medications to see them through.

Christmas Eve	Sunday	CLOSED-24hr Emergency out of Hours Service available
Christmas Day	Monday	CLOSED-24hr Emergency out of Hours Service available
Boxing Day	Tuesday	CLOSED-24hr Emergency out of Hours Service available
27th December	Wednesday	8am-7pm
28th December	Thursday	8am-7pm
29th December	Friday	8am-7pm
30th December	Saturday	8.30am-12 Noon (Thurlby only)
New Year's Eve	Sunday	CLOSED-24hr Emergency out of Hours Service available
New Year's Day	Monday	CLOSED-24hr Emergency out of Hours Service available
2nd January 2017	Tuesday	8am-7pm

Animates would like to wish all our clients a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

2 The Green, [Thurlby](#), PE10 0EB, t: 01778 420462, [Mon to Fri](#) 8am - 7pm, [Sat](#) 8.30am -12pm
4 Stamford Road, [Market Deeping](#), PE6 8AB, t: 01778 380111, [Mon to Fri](#) 8am – 7pm
