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Watch out for these spring hazards

Happy spring! As we look forward to the arrival of better weather (fingers crossed) and the joys of the season, it's important to be mindful of some of spring's potential dangers.

1. **Chocolate**

If you're stocking up on Easter eggs, remember that chocolate contains theobromine, which can make dogs seriously unwell if eaten. Keep all chocolate treats out of paw's reach, and contact the practice as soon as possible for advice if you think your pet has consumed any chocolate.

2. **Spring cleaning**

We all love a good spring clean, but cleaning products should be kept away from pets, as they may contain toxic chemicals. You should also ensure that newly cleaned surfaces are dry before allowing pets access to them. If you think your pet has consumed or licked a cleaning product, please call the practice immediately.

3. **Flowers and bulbs**

Many dogs love to dig up the garden, but some spring flowers (such as tulips and daffodils) and bulbs can be toxic if eaten. Keep them safely away from pets, and get in touch with our team if your dog consumes a flower or bulb.

4. **Grass seed**

Be wary of grass seed injuries, which happen when grass seeds get trapped in fur and pierce the skin or enter other parts of the body, such as the ears, eyes or mouth. Check your pet's feet and ears regularly, and look out for symptoms like shaking of the head and ears, licking toes, swollen paws and red lumps.

5. **Wasp and bee stings**

Only bees leave a sting, which can cause mild pain and irritation. If your pet has a bee sting, bathe it in water and bicarbonate of soda and use an ice pack to help with the pain. For wasp stings, bathe them in vinegar or lemon juice and apply an ice pack to help with the pain. Remember to act safely; carry out first aid if it's safe to do so, but remember that there may be a risk of biting if your pet is sore. You should also look out for signs of an allergic reaction, such as facial swelling, changes in breathing or collapse. Please call the practice if you're worried about your pet's sting.

If you've got any concerns about your pet's health or would like further advice on staying safe throughout spring, please get in touch with the practice.





Has your cat been microchipped?

Microchipping is a safe and permanent way of identifying your pet, and is the best way to ensure that they can be returned to you if they are lost or stolen.

From 10th June 2024, microchipping will be a legal requirement in cats living in England, with a failure to do so by the time they reach the age of 20 weeks punishable by a fine of up to £500.

We'll be happy to talk you through this quick, safe and easy procedure and help you book your cat in for their microchipping appointment before the deadline. Get in touch today for more information.



Protect your rabbit from flystrike

Flystrike is a life-threatening condition caused by flies laying eggs on rabbits, which hatch into maggots and begin to feed on the rabbit's flesh. This can rapidly cause severe injury to our rabbits, so it's important to ensure that your rabbit is protected.

Both indoor and outdoor rabbits are at risk of flystrike, while rabbits who are overweight or have stiff joints or toileting issues are all at higher risk.

To prevent flystrike, ensure your rabbit's home is clean and dry, take them for regular dental checks, keep their coat well groomed and clean and chat to the team about suitable preventative products.

Get in touch with our team to book a check-up for your rabbit.



Keep canine infectious cough at bay

Canine infectious cough (kennel cough) is an infection in dogs that can be caused by several different viruses and bacteria. Although it doesn't usually cause dogs to become seriously ill, it can cause a nasty, honking cough and is very contagious.

Our team can vaccinate your dog against the main causes of canine infectious cough when your dog receives their core annual vaccinations. We strongly recommend that your dog receive their canine infectious cough vaccination, as the infection can be caught anywhere where there are a lot of other dogs, such as kennels, parks, day cares, shows or competition.

Yearly vaccinations are vital in minimising the risk of canine infectious cough, and vaccines should be given at least three weeks before your dog goes into kennels.

To learn more or book your dog's next vaccination appointment, please get in touch with our team.

