



In this edition!

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'Tis the season for keeping pets safe



We all love to tuck into festive foods, but it's important to consider what your pet could accidentally get their paws on. Hot food can burn mouths and throats, and the high fat content in Christmas dinners and sugar free sweets and mints can be dangerous for pets. Turkey bones can cause blockages and damage to your pet's digestive tract, while chocolate, alcohol, grapes and dried fruit are also poisonous to dogs. If you think your pet has eaten something harmful, contact the practice straight away. It's best to stick to pet-safe treats!

If your house is full of merry guests, ensure that your pets have a quiet area to head off to and that their microchip details are up to date so pets can be traced back to you if they escape or are let out. It's a good idea to supervise your pets around Christmas decorations, as tinsel and string can cause digestive blockages if eaten, and glass baubles may cut paws if smashed. You should also keep poinsettia, ivy, holly and mistletoe out of reach to avoid stomach upsets, and discourage pets from chewing on the Christmas tree.

Finally, if you have little ones who have been given toys with small parts or batteries, keep them out of reach from pets, as they can cause serious damage if eaten.

If you're worried that your pet has consumed something they shouldn't have over the festive season or seems unwell, please contact the practice. Have a safe and merry Christmas!

Stay safe and seen this winter

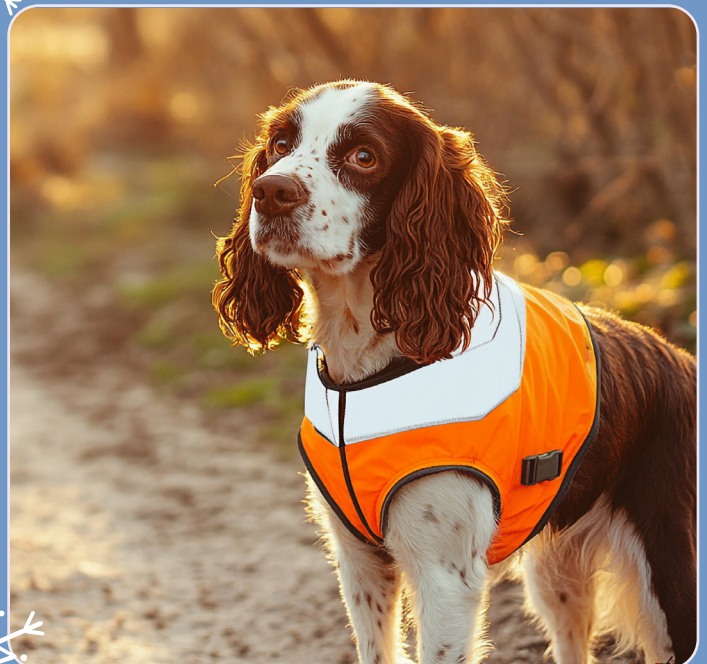


As the nights and early mornings get darker, we need to make our pets as visible as possible to others when outdoors.

Reflective collars can be useful for cats – just make sure that you use a quick-release collar to prevent your feline friend getting stuck or sustaining a collar injury.

When taking your dog out, reflective or light-up collars, harnesses, leads, coats and vests are a good idea, as they ensure that your canine companion is as visible as possible to drivers and other road users.

You could also consider a bright or reflective coat for yourself, especially if you are going for walks in poorly lit areas. You could even try a head torch, which can help ensure you keep on the path and come in handy when taking your pet to go to the toilet outside!





Arthritis in rabbits

Rabbits can suffer from osteoarthritis,, which is a type of inflammation that causes pain and stiffness in the joints. While it can be painful, is progressive and doesn't have a cure, your rabbit should still be able to live a full and active life with the right combination of treatments.

Symptoms of osteoarthritis in rabbits include:

- Stiffness or wobbling when moving.
- Changes in where they are willing to go or jump on to.
- Not being able to eat soft morning stools directly from their bottom, and having to scoot around and eat them from the floor.
- A dirty or urine-soaked bottom.
- Not being able to angle their pelvis properly when they pee, meaning they can't empty their bladder completely. This can also lead to bladder sludge or stones.
- Moving around less when it's cold or damp.
- Reduced appetite.
- Unexplained aggression towards you or a bonded partner.

If you notice any of these signs or are concerned about your rabbit, please get in touch with the practice.

Your vet will be able to diagnose osteoarthritis and recommend some helpful methods for managing the condition, such as:

- Maintaining a healthy weight.
- Putting coverings on slippery floors and surfaces to aid movement.
- Providing a litter tray that is low at the front and has no sharp edges.
- Keeping your rabbit warm in cold and damp weather.
- Providing ramps or steps to get up to hutches.
- Ensuring they have plenty of space to do gentle exercise.
- Giving them things to play with and lots of environmental and feeding enrichment.
- Keeping a careful eye on your rabbit's bottom, grooming them regularly and applying flystrike prevention treatments.

For further advice, please get in touch with our team.



Get involved with our weight management campaign

Whatever your pet's age, we're always here to answer any questions about their weight, diet or nutritional needs, whether at one of our weight clinics or over the phone.

It's important to feed your cat or dog a diet suitable for their stage of life, development or clinical diagnosis. That's why we keep a range of lifestage and clinical diets in stock, and can order a wide range of other products for you if you need a specific product or quantity.

To book a weight clinic appointment or learn more about how to keep your pet fit and healthy, please get in touch.



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