

Please find below a copy of our latest newsletter, we hope you find it interesting.

We would also like to tell you about our **British Heart Foundation Coffee Morning** on Weds 19th November, 10.30 -12.00, do come along for a drink and to sample some home-made cakes! We will also be launching our 2015 calendar that morning (see the article in the newsletter for more information.) We hope to see you there!

The Drake Vets Team



Drake News - Winter 2014

Welcome to the latest issue of the Drake Vets Newsletter, keeping you up to date with what's happening in the practice and giving you some helpful advice on caring for your pets.

Opening times:

Yelverton

Leg O Mutton Corner

8.30 - 6.30 Mon – Fri

8.30 - 13.00 Sat

Appointments available throughout the day, or drop into open surgery 14.00 - 15.30 on weekdays.

Accredited **Gold Standard** Cat Friendly Practice, with cat only appointment times available on Tuesdays



Tavistock

65 West Street

9.00 - 10.00 & 4.30 - 5.30

Mon – Fri

9.00 - 10.00 Sat

By appointment only.

Contact us:

Phone **01822 854255**

Email info@drakevets.co.uk

Web www.drakevets.co.uk

24 Hour Emergency Service
01822 854255

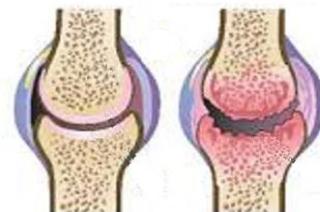
Winter Warmth

As it gets colder it's important to take special consideration of your furry friends that live outdoors, such as rabbits and guinea pigs. These little creatures are very susceptible to cold and damp weather so it's important to protect them from the elements. Their hutches should be placed in a sheltered position and have plenty of clean, dry bedding for them to snuggle up in. Microwaveable pet heat pads can be put in hutches on cold nights to provide up to 10 hours of extra warmth.



Bedding should be changed daily, and there should always be a supply of fresh food and water. Remember to check the water bottle regularly to make sure that it's not frozen.

Dogs and cats can also be affected by the cold weather, especially older animals with the beginnings of arthritis. Arthritis occurs when the cartilage in your pet's joints begins to break down and wear thin. This causes inflammation and pain in the joint, leading to symptoms such as stiffness when rising, difficulty jumping, reluctance to play or groom, walking stiffly and sometimes limping. Although your pet may not show obvious signs of pain e.g. yelping, if they are showing any of the above signs then they will have joint pain and discomfort. The good news is that there are many things we can do to help. Many pets will benefit from joint food supplements, anti-inflammatory medications or acupuncture, all of which we offer at Drake Vets. If you think your pet may have arthritis then call us today!



Normal Joint

Arthritic Joint



Fireworks Phobia

Bonfire night and New Years Eve can be stressful for pets. If your pet worries about fireworks let us know as there are many things we can do to help!

Christmas and your pet

Christmas is always an exciting time of year, but there are many things associated with it that can be dangerous to your furry friend. Many food items popular at Christmas are toxic to pets and should be kept out of their reach. If you think your pet has ingested any of the items below, then contact the practice as soon as possible.

- **Chocolate** contains a chemical called theobromine which even in small quantities in dogs can cause symptoms such as tremors, convulsions and heart problems, and can potentially be fatal.

- **Grapes, raisins** and **sultanas** (often found in mince pies and Christmas cake) are very toxic to dogs and can cause vomiting, weakness and acute kidney failure.



- **Macadamia nuts** in dogs can cause weakness, muscle tremors and hyperthermia, even in very small quantities. **Peanuts** and **monkey nuts** can also cause problems in dogs such as vomiting and diarrhoea, and if they are salted can cause twitching or convulsions.

- **Xylitol** (food additive code E967) is an artificial sweetener found in many food items, especially sugar free sweets and chewing gum. It is very harmful to dogs and can cause low blood sugar and liver damage.

- **Caffeine** in tea, coffee and chocolate can cause vomiting, excitability, convulsions and heart problems in dogs. Chocolate covered coffee beans are a particular risk as they also contain chocolate.

- **Lily plants** are very toxic to cats, causing vomiting, lethargy and kidney failure. All parts of the plant are toxic, but the most common route of exposure is from the pollen getting onto fur and being licked off during grooming. **Poinsettia** plants are also toxic to cats, and can cause vomiting, excess salivation and lethargy. In dogs, **Holly** and **Mistletoe** berries, leaves and stems can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, excess salivation and depression.

- In addition, cats and dogs often enjoy playing with **decorations** such as tinsel and ribbons, which if swallowed can cause an intestinal blockage, so make sure these items are also out of your pets reach.



Kennel Cough Alert!

We have recently seen a sharp increase in cases of kennel cough. This highly contagious disease is not only found in kennels, but is present in the general population of dogs. It can be spread by direct contact or from infectious particles left on surfaces by infected dogs. The main symptom noted is a harsh cough, which can sound like your dog has something stuck in their throat, but in severe cases in can cause a fever and lethargy. Most cases will require treatment with antibiotics and anti-inflammatory medication. We recommend vaccinating for kennel cough every year along with your dog's regular booster, regardless of whether they go into kennels or not. We have a booster package which includes the kennel cough vaccine at a discounted rate if done at the same time as the regular booster. For further information, contact the practice.

Photo Competition

We had an amazing response to our October photo competition with over 200 entries! Congratulations to our winners Bruce & Jenna, Luigi, and the three baby guinea pigs, who receive goody hampers. It was a very tough competition and almost impossible to choose the winners. We have had so many fantastic photos that we're putting together a 2015 calendar featuring some of our favourites, with all the proceeds going to the British Heart Foundation. They're guaranteed to brighten up your home or office, or make a great Christmas present. Available from reception from 19th November, whilst stocks last. Come along to our



calendar launch coffee morning 10.30 – 12.00 on November 19th at our Yelverton branch.

Diabetes Awareness Month

Diabetes in animals is often linked to ageing and obesity. The early signs of diabetes include increased drinking and urinating, increased appetite and weight loss.

Do you think your pet could be diabetic? To help you find out, we are offering **FREE** diabetes clinics during November, which include a health check with one of our qualified nurses and a free urine screening test. We are also running half price clinics for existing diabetic pets. To book in give us a call today!

