

Take care at Christmas! Call immediately if you think your pet has eaten any of these:



Cocoa poisoning in the form of chocolate (especially dark) or in cooked goods such as yule logs/brownies is common around Christmas. Avoid grapes, dried fruit and foods in the Allium family (onions, leeks and garlic, often in stuffing). Tablets such as Ibuprofen are attractive to dogs as they are sugar coated and one quarter of a Paracetamol tablet can be fatal to a cat! Call us for advice if you have any concerns.

Recent scientific studies have shown what many Labrador owners have always known: Some breeds of dogs, including Labradors, can't help being overweight as their brains don't tell them when to stop eating! Being overweight or obese contributes to severe health problems in all species including arthritis, heart disease, diabetes, some cancers, skin trauma and infections, cystitis/incontinence, anal gland problems and the list goes on. We are here to help, offering FREE WEIGHT CLINICS and advice on diet, exercise and all aspects of your pet's healthcare.



DIAGNOSTIC TESTS – WHAT ARE THEY FOR?

We are all used to having our blood pressure taken. Unlike us, cats and dogs rarely develop primary hypertension (high blood pressure) - but they do develop it in association with other diseases such as kidney disease, hyperthyroidism and diabetes. Hypotension (low blood pressure) can occur due to dehydration, during anaesthesia, with heart problems and anaemia. We have special equipment available to perform this simple test which can help with all sorts of medical diagnoses.

To help us to keep our pets healthy and monitor them accurately, we have our own IN HOUSE LABORATORY so we can examine blood, urine, skin scrapes, ear samples and many other things quickly, efficiently and accurately. People often comment on the service that our patients get compared human patients - now we can deliver results even more quickly with the installation of blood testing machines that provide fast and accurate information to help to provide the best possible care for our patients.



FLEECY FEEDERS are ideal for hiding treats or food and keep dogs busy whether at home, out and about or in the car. Fully machine washable, they can be created in your own choice of colours and come in several sizes. For details, contact Ellie Teasdale on 07941261883.

CAT FLAP CONNUNDRUM! If your cats (or dogs) need garden access, Capital Glazers UK provide a service fitting cat and dog flaps into doors and windows even if they are double glazed. They can be contacted on 01279 212040.

Bon voyage Steff!

After working in the UK for several years, we are saying a sad good bye to Stephanie Armand and her family who are starting a new life in Seattle, U.S.A. We and our patients are very grateful for all she has done for us, especially with her skills of veterinary manual medicine, osteopathy and acupuncture. Experienced therapist Laura Payne will be taking on Steff's Veterinary Manual Medicine patients so please contact us to arrange an appointment. Thanks Steff for all your hard work and good luck for the future!

We are lucky to see such a variety of patients: **Noel the cockerel** had a lucky escape after a fox attack left him with a badly broken leg. A few weeks of bandaging and he's as good as new. No two days are ever the same!



EMERGENCIES, HOLIDAY AND OUT OF HOURS COVER:

WE ENDEAVOUR, WHERE POSSIBLE, TO COVER ALL PATIENTS' REQUIREMENTS IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY OR OUTSIDE NORMAL WORKING HOURS. WE WILL BE UNAVAILABLE FROM **24TH – 31ST DECEMBER 2016**. IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLEASE PHONE, **DO NOT SEND A TEXT OR EMAIL** AS THESE MAY NOT GENERATE AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE. AN ANSWER PHONE MESSAGE WILL GIVE EMERGENCY ADVICE. IF WE ARE UNAVAILABLE DURING HOLIDAY TIME, ILLNESS OR ON CALLS SOME DISTANCE AWAY, EMERGENCY COVER CAN ALWAYS BE ACCESSED AT KEW VETS, 11 WYCH ELM, HARLOW, CM20 1QR, TELEPHONE 01279 422066. OUR PATIENTS' HISTORIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE VETS THERE WHEN NEEDED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY, HAPPY NEW YEAR!