



Christmas around the corner

Firstly, have a wonderful festive season! In the midst of all the Christmas hubbly and bubble, let us keep the safety of our pets in mind while we gorge ourselves on Christmas Delights.

Though your pet may be begging for the left over greasy treats from your BBQ, do restrain from giving in to their needy eyes. A sudden very high fat diet can lead to pancreatitis. This is a very painful illness and your dog may start vomiting, going off its food and have a painful belly. Pancreatitis treatment can take a fair bit of time and money which neither you nor your dog will enjoy. If your dog does give you those eyes that are near impossible to refuse try giving them a doggie treat instead.

Remember to keep all the lovely baked chocolate goods out of reach of hungry pets mouths. Chocolate toxicity is very common around this time. The darker the chocolate, the unluckier your dog. If you are missing a big chunk of chocolate and your dog has chocolate smeared around their face all the way behind their ears, treat this situation as an emergency. If caught within a couple of hours we can administer medication to make them vomit.



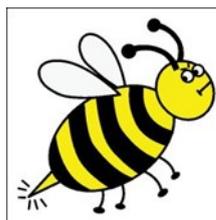
Other foods to keep away from animals;

Garlic, Onions, Grapes, Raisins, Macadamia Nuts and Xylitol (Sweetner in sugar free products)

In the event of ingestion by your pet, contact the clinic as soon as possible.

Bee Stings & Insect Bites: The Do's and Don'ts

As we move slowly closer to the gloriously sunny "southland summer" biting and stinging insects will start to come out of hiding. Insect stings or bites usually cause swelling, itching and redness. Some pets can have allergic reactions which can be seen as hives and/or facial swelling; in more severe cases there can be vomiting and breathing difficulties that may lead to collapse.



If your pet has a reaction to a suspected insect bite or sting:

DO

- * Have a careful look for the stinger and remove it, ensuring you remove the venom sac also.
- * Apply cool compresses to the affected area.
- * Apply a paste mixture of baking soda and water to the sting area (this neutralizes the acid venom of the sting.)
- * If there is ANY facial swelling, breathing difficulty or collapse call us to get your pet seen immediately.



DON'T

- * Do not give your pet any medication that you have at home without first consulting one of our veterinarians.

Summer Heat



Regrettably dogs die every summer from being left unattended in a vehicle. A vehicles temperature is deadly. Your pet may enjoy a car ride, but on a hot day it's best to leave them at home. If your pet does travel with you please ensure you leave adequate air circulation and accessibility to clean fresh water.

Vehicle Temperature		
Outside Temp C°	Inside Temp C°	
	10 mins	30 mins
24°	34°	40°
26°	37°	43°
29°	40°	48°
32°	43°	51°



Case of the month – Constipated dog

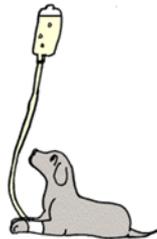
Poor Wookie thought he was lucky when his mummy fetched him a bone. He chewed it, he gnawed it, thrashed it and mawed it Until all of it was gone.



He slept well that night, in blissful delight Dreaming of nibbling bones But when he woke up, he felt quite crook Full of cries, aches and groans

His mummy saw him in pain, body contorted to strain And booked him in to see the vet Really needing the loo, he couldn't go poo His mother felt full of regret

An X-ray was taken, there was no mistaking His rectum was chockablock An enema was given the vet was driven To get the poor boy unclogged



IV fluids were started, his mummy departed He got laxatives and pain relief too He stayed that night, feeling sh*te His mummy hoping he'll pull through

The next morning, nurses took him walking And oh what wondrous sensation, Wookie squatted, things unclotted What a delightful defecation



Constipation can be a life threatening situation if you have any concerns please contact us as soon as possible.

Kennelling

Boarding kennels and catteries tend to fill up quickly around this time of year. Make sure your pet's vaccination status is up to date. Both Kennel Cough and Parvovirus vaccinations are usually the minimum requirement for dogs. Vaccines need to be administered in advance for entry to the boarding kennels, so avoid the Christmas rush and book in early.

Animal Facts....Did you know?

* A tarantula spider can survive for more than two years without food.



* The flamingo can only eat when its head is upside down.

* Octopuses have three hearts.



* Reindeer eyeballs turn blue in winter to help them see at lower light levels.

* Warmer weather causes more turtles to be born female than male.

* Butterflies have two compound eyes consisting of thousands of lenses, yet they can only see the colors red, green and yellow.



* Sweden has a rabbit show-jumping competition called Kaninhoppning.

Medications in Pets

Human medications can cause harm to your pet, please do not give your pets drugs that have been prescribed to you or another family member. If you pet is unwell please contact us and make an appointment for your animal to be seen.

Christmas/New Year Hours

Vetco Edendale and Kennington clinics will be closed on the following days:

Christmas Statutory Days..... 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th December 2016

New Year Statutory Days..... 31st, 1st, 2nd, 3rd January 2017

Southland Anniversary Day..... 16th January 2017

If you require Veterinary Services while our clinics are closed please follow the usual after hours procedure which is dial the listed clinic number. Your call will be automatically diverted to the cell phone of the duty veterinarian. (After dialing the clinic number there is a pause while the call is diverted, please wait while the call is being connected).



KENNINGTON CLINIC - 11 CLAPHAM ROAD (03) 230 4689
EDENDALE CLINIC - 14 SWEENEY STREET (03) 206 6170

