

## Christmas Stock

If you would like to spoil your pets this Christmas why not pop in and buy them something nice? We have advent calendars, stockings, selection boxes, multipacks, doggy rocky road, doggy mince pies and Christmas themed dog toys all available to buy now.

## Christmas poisons

**Christmas trees and plants:** Most species are low toxicity but may cause a mild gastrointestinal upset (vomiting and/or diarrhoea) if chewed. Tinsel and decorations can cause intestinal blockages if eaten and your pet may get a nasty shock if they chew through the electrical cable for your Christmas lights. Holly, mistletoe and poinsettia are all toxic to dogs so keep them out of their reach.

**Batteries:** Ingestion of batteries is more common at this time of year. If the battery is chewed and pierced it can cause chemical burns and heavy metal poisoning. If they are swallowed whole it is possible they will cause a blockage.

## **Common Christmas food dangers for dogs:**

**Grapes:** Exactly why and how these are poisonous to dogs is unknown and the exact volume needed to cause symptoms is difficult to predict. Some dogs will eat one or two grapes and become seriously ill but others can eat many of them without apparent signs. The only way to be safe is to keep them out of reach of your dog.

**Christmas pudding, Christmas cake and Mince pies:** These Christmas fancies are bad for dogs for a number of reasons:

1. They are jam-packed full of raisins and sultanas. These are all a variation on the 'grape' and as such have the same serious health risks. It is common for them to ingest far more 'grapes' in this form than they would fresh grapes because there are so many packed into these cakes and they are smaller.
2. They are full of fat which can often give pets severe stomach troubles as well as causing the more worrying and serious disease pancreatitis which can be a very costly to treat.
3. They are usually laced with large amounts of alcohol which can cause many of the symptoms of intoxication seen in people.

**Chocolate coins and other chocolate decorations:** Most people are aware of the dangers for dogs from eating chocolate and take steps to avoid leaving any near their dogs. However, it is not uncommon for people to forget about the chocolate coins or decorations and leave them in an irresistible location. As well as the dangers of the chocolate the actual wrapping foil can be problematic as they work through the gut system.

**Bones:** At this time of year we often cook far more meat joints than usual and this normally results in many more bones lying about. Once cooked all bones become brittle and can splinter easily. This can lead to larger fragments getting 'stuck' causing obstructions but also smaller pieces can cause gut irritation and perforation or even just difficulty toileting.

**Macadamia nuts:** Within 12 hours of ingestion macadamia nuts can cause dogs to experience weakness, depression, tremors, vomiting and hyperthermia (increased body temperature). These symptoms tend to last for approximately 12 to 48 hours, and as with all the other food groups mentioned if you suspect your dog has consumed macadamia nuts note the possible quantity consumed and contact us immediately.

**Alcohol:** We tend to use much more alcohol in our cooking at this time of year and so even normal titbits can be potentially problematic over the Christmas period. As it is for people, alcohol is also intoxicating for dogs and can cause similar unpleasant side effects.

**If you are concerned your pets may have consumed any of the above please contact us on 01946 693303 (Whitehaven) or 01946 920312 (Egremont) for advice.**

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## Antifreeze poisoning

Antifreeze poisoning is unfortunately very common and ingesting the smallest amount can cause kidney failure and death (especially in cats). Sometimes it can be malicious (deliberate) but often it is accidental. Accidental poisonings from spills, as well as leaking water coolant from cars happen every year, leading to pet deaths. Regularly check your car to ensure it isn't leaking water coolant. Take care storing, using and disposing of antifreeze and water coolant. Most accidental deaths are avoidable!

- Always keep antifreeze in clearly labelled, robust, sealed containers, away from pets and their environment.
- **Clean up spills immediately**, no matter how small. Ensure pets cannot access the area until it's clean
- Always dispose of antifreeze and water coolant safely and responsibly.

## Symptoms of antifreeze poisoning

- Vomiting
- Seeming depressed/sleepy
- Appearing drunk and uncoordinated
- Seizures (fits)
- Difficulty breathing
- Increased thirst
- Increased urination

Signs of antifreeze poisoning can show 30 minutes after ingestion. It can be two/three days before signs of kidney failure are seen.

**The sooner your pet receives veterinary treatment, the better their chances of survival.**

If left untreated, antifreeze poisoning will cause pain, suffering, distress and ultimately death.

**If you suspect antifreeze poisoning in any of your animals contact us immediately on 01946 693303 (Whitehaven) or 01946 820312 (Egremont)**

## Christmas grooming

Our grooming service gets very busy around the festive period so please book your pets in early to avoid disappointment.

Please call now on 01946 693303 (Whitehaven) or 01946 820312 (Egremont) to make your grooming appointment.



## **Grooming**

We offer a full clipping/bathing service for all breeds of cats and dogs. Prices from £20.00

CLIPPING,  
DE MATTING,  
GROOMING,  
BATHING,  
EAR PLUCKING/CLEANING,  
NAIL CLIPPING,  
**FREE HEALTH CHECK.**

Sedation is available if needed for nervous/unmanageable cats and dogs. **FREE**  
**WORMER for your pet with every groom.**

## **Is your pet insured?**

Did you know that more people claim against their pet insurance policy than on their household or car insurance (Allianz Insurance plc) and one in three pets will require emergency treatment each year. The average cost of treating a dog or cat with diabetes is £9,307 over their lifetime. **Is it time you got pet insurance?** Leaflets and information are available on request

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