




BEWARE Lungworm!



news

Winter 2023/24 

Most pet owners know how important it is to regularly treat their pet for parasitic worms. All types of worms are a health risk to your pet, and in some cases humans too, so please do ensure that your pet is covered.

Lungworm (*Angiostrongylus Vasorum*) is a particularly nasty parasite that can make your dog seriously ill, and very sadly in some cases if left untreated, can be fatal. If infected, lungworm lives in the heart and blood vessels that supply the lungs. Take a look to the right to see how this parasite could infect your pets. Perhaps they are snail eaters or sniff around in grass? Even feeding bowls and toys that are in the garden can have infected snail trails.

Common symptoms of lungworm infections are:

- coughing ● rapid/difficulty breathing ● weight loss
- loss of appetite ● lethargy ● pale gums ● seizures
- vomiting and/or diarrhoea ● bleeding problems

If you notice any of the above, please bring your pet in for a check up without delay.

Reduce the spread of lungworm

- Maintain regular worming treatments.
- Clean up and correctly dispose of your dog's poo from the garden and on walks.
- Minimise pets contact with snails and slugs.
- **Before use**, thoroughly wash toys, water and food bowls that have been in the garden.



If you are unsure of what preventative treatments to use and how often, please ask for advice from our friendly team.

*****PLEASE REMEMBER*****

Slug pellets placed in your garden are highly toxic, and can be fatal to dogs and other pets if eaten.

All Change: Prescription Only Medication

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons issued **new rules on 1 September 2023** that certain 'prescription only medications' (POM-Vs) will now legally require a physical examination by a Veterinary Surgeon at the time of prescription. This means that even if your pet has been prescribed medication without a visit in the past, they may now have to come in. This is a step towards reducing the veterinary impact on wider issues such as global antibiotic resistance and decline of insect populations.

Key changes that will affect small pet owners are:

- All antibiotics, antifungals, antivirals and controlled drugs (which include gabapentin, phenobarbitone and tramadol) require an in person physical exam by our veterinary surgeon at the time of prescribing.
- This applies to all POM-V flea, tick and worming treatments including: Simparica Trio, Milprazon, Stronghold Plus and Selehold. It also applies to all antibiotics including oral, injectable and topical (creams, medicated ear drops and eye ointments).
- Antibiotics cannot be prescribed based on photographic or video evidence only – a physical examination of your pet is legally required. Some antibiotic examples include: Isaderm®, Isathal®, Malaseb® and Synulox®.

Please order any repeat medication well in time for the Christmas period, and remember it takes at least 24 hours for prescriptions to be ready.



Monday to Friday

9am - 7pm

Sunday

10am - 2pm

Closed Bank Holiday Weekends

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MAKE sure your dog is on a lead when walking close to frozen ponds and rivers.



EXERCISE pets regularly over the festive season, it's part of their routine healthcare.

ROCKETS and fireworks can cause some pets much distress, but we have plenty of help and advice.

RECHARGEABLE and regular batteries are extremely dangerous if chewed or swallowed by your pet.



YOUR fairy lights are very pretty, but watch out for pets chewing at wires and plugs.

CHOCOLATE contains theobromine, which is poisonous to dogs and cats. Store it out of their reach.

HELP our feathered friends in winter. Keep the wild bird table topped up.



REMIND visiting guests who are on medication to store it carefully. While you eat your turkey dinner, your pet could be munching Aunt Ethel's pills!

IF your pet falls ill when the surgery is closed, call our emergency service.

SUPERVISE all pets near open fires and log burners.

TURKEY carcass bones are sharp when broken and can get lodged in the throat and stomach. Please do not feed them to your pet!

MINCE PIES contain raisins, which can be toxic to dogs if ingestedgrapes too.



ANTIFREEZE for cars tastes sweet to pets, but is potentially fatal if swallowed. Please clear away any spills and don't let your pet drink from puddles.

SMALL PETS living outside require extra warm dry bedding, regular checks and unfrozen drinking water. Ensure hutches are rain and draught proof.



Gagging Cats!

When reports started coming through on my mobile of gagging cats, I immediately rushed off to investigate the latest incident! On arrival, I found the victim hunched in a corner who managed in between gagging to tell me of his problem. "Well you know how fussy we cats are about our appearance always groomingyou know licking and nibbling at our fur..... well you never think it's going to happen to you but then bang...you're a victim! At this point he paused and launched into a series of coughing and retching. "It's no use" he whispered "I just can't shift it, I need help please".

Fortunately I can report that his owner on seeing the trouble her cat was in, whisked him off to the vets. Following in haste, I waited outside for her to emerge and as she did, asked if her cat was okay? "Well thank goodness" she said, "I'm very happy to tell you that Tiddles is much better now and recovering

from his ordeal. It seems that he had formed a hairball from the fur that he swallows while grooming. The vet told me that this usually passes through the digestive system and is pooped out, but in Tiddles' case this did not happen and the hairball was stuck! With some treatment it has now been removed. Tiddles is much happier and I can take him home soon"

So cat owners, if you see your cat gagging and retching, please call us immediately for advice. Also watch out for loss of appetite, constipation and in the more serious cases, a swollen abdomen. This is Carrie Cat signing off for Two by Two Vets News.

Carrie Cat



Reporter
Extraordinaire



A Kiss Under the Mistletoe

Ancient Druids and Norse Mythology tell mystical stories of this seasonal plant, but unfortunately the truth for your pet....it is poisonous!

Mistletoe & berries, fresh or dried, contain substances that are toxic. **If ingested, this can cause severe intestinal upset, a sudden drop in blood pressure and breathing difficulties.** Sadly this can sometimes be fatal.

Holly/berries are also toxic, so either avoid having holly and mistletoe in your home, or keep these plants well out of reach of cats and dogs! **If you notice any of the following signs** or suspect ingestion of either plant, please contact your vet immediately.

Excessive Drooling - Vomiting - Diarrhoea - Stomach Pain - Seizures

Poinsettias can also cause problems, but the level of toxicity is milder. The white sap in Poinsettias irritates the skin, mouth and throat, causing redness, itching and swelling. Puppies, kittens, and smaller breeds are more at risk, as their size and the amount of plant ingested will determine the seriousness of poisoning. **If ingested it may cause: vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling and lip licking.**

