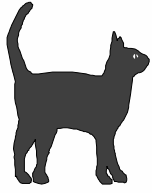


# Midsummer Veterinary Group



24th Edition

Winter 2008



Wishing all our clients and their pets a very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy & Healthy New Year



Dexter Freddie Tam Angela Sarah Amy

## How many days to Christmas!

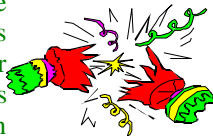
Whatever the answer, it's not enough! We always promise ourselves to be more prepared for the next time Christmas creeps up on us. Very few of us manage to sit back with a contented smile on our face knowing that every last card, present, mince pie and food is all accounted for, whilst the rest of us hurtle around saying, "I'll never get it all done". If you need that extra special toy for your pet, look no further than our reception display, we have an excellent selection of toys and gifts for your pet. But hurry because demand is high and we don't want you or your pet to be disappointed. We also have available a selection of leads, collars, dental chews and nylon bones which make ideal presents for your special friend.



If your pet is on medication or special food please make sure that you have sufficient supplies over the Christmas period. See over for our Christmas and New Year opening times and keep this newsletter handy so that all the family knows when we are open and when we will be closed.



It's always a busy time for everyone but please make sure that you take into consideration the needs of your pet too. They may get a little anxious and nervy whilst all the celebrations are going on so it's best to think ahead as to how to alleviate any stress. There are diffusers, calming drops and capsules that may help. Please ask one of our Nurses to go through the various options and to give practical advice on how to help your pet.



## Don't have unexpected visitors for Christmas.

You may think that fleas are only a summertime problem but because we all have central heating this means that flea pupa, having been dormant for anything up to nine months and possibly in your carpet, will turn into an adult flea because of the increased warmth.



The life cycle of a flea is dependant on environmental conditions and can be anything from five weeks to nine months. A flea may lay as many as 50 eggs per day, the eggs hatch in about two days and the larvae will find somewhere warm and dark (either in the carpet or in your pet's bedding) to pupate and eventually turn into adult fleas when conditions are right.

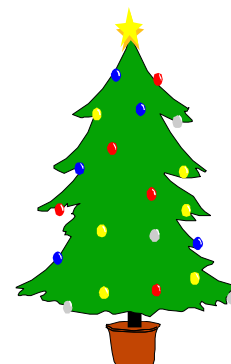
Usually the first sign of flea infestation is your pet showing discomfort by scratching. The easiest way to check for fleas is by using a fine metal comb and running it through the coat. You may see fleas on the comb or flea dirt. If you are not sure whether the small dark flecks that you see is actually flea dirt (flea faeces) drop them onto a moistened tissue, if it is flea faeces they will produce a reddish stain as they consist mainly of blood.



So you can see that it is necessary to continue with Flea Treatment through the winter months too. Our experienced nursing staff will be able to advise you on flea prevention.



Please note that from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008 written prescriptions will no longer be free of charge. The charge, including VAT, will be £15.78.



**Pet Insurance – If you have considered having insurance**

for your pet you will be aware that there are many companies offering pet insurance. On the other hand you may think that it's a waste of money as your pet has regular preventative care (check ups, boosters, worming, flea treatment) and has never had any emergency treatment. Many of our clients have been very glad that their pet had insurance for that 'I didn't think it would happen to me' moment. During your pet's lifetime the unexpected can happen and your pet may need life saving treatment. We use state of the art technology. Our operating theatre, x-ray room and recovery facilities are fully equipped. We have to be in a position to handle any emergency, operation or procedure that comes through the door. And no it doesn't come cheap. We offer the best facilities with the best veterinary expertise, giving the best quality. **We don't like having to compromise on the quality of treatment given on the basis of cost.** It is very distressing for the owner and veterinary team if a badly injured pet comes in that needs a life saving operation and the owner has not made any provision for this type of situation.



So if you don't currently have Pet Insurance, imagine the scenario of your pet urgently needing a vital operation or treatment and not being able to afford to have it done because you thought it wouldn't happen to your pet. Please think seriously about insuring your pet.

This practice is a PetPlan Appointed Representative. We can help you complete your PetPlan claim forms and discuss your claims with PetPlan. We chose to be a PetPlan Representative as we believe PetPlan has a range of policies to suit your particular needs. We therefore are unable to advise you on other pet insurers' policies.

**Vaccination** is the only safe way to ensure that your pet's immunity to a number of dangerous diseases is maintained. Puppies and kittens are usually protected during the first few weeks of life via their Mother's milk, however this immunity does not last long. They are then susceptible to various diseases some of which may prove fatal.

**What diseases can we vaccinate dogs against?**

**Canine Parvovirus** – Usually fatal. The virus can survive for long periods in the environment.

**Canine Distemper** – Severe fatal disease.

**Infectious Hepatitis** – May be fatal.

**Leptospirosis** – Contracted from the urine of rats and/or other dogs.

**Kennel Cough** – Usually transmitted where there are other dogs (kennels, shows and popular walking areas). Can be life threatening to young puppies.

**Rabies** – Fatal disease but not found in UK. Vaccination is required for travel abroad.

**What diseases can we vaccinate cats against?**

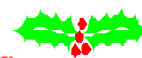
**Cat Flu** – Spread by direct contact or through sneezing.

**Infectious Enteritis** – Unpleasant and often fatal disease.

**Feline Leukaemia** – Viral disease that suppresses immune system usually fatal.

**Rabies** – Same as dogs above.

**Puppies and kittens should have their primary course of vaccinations and then regular boosters to maintain their immunity**

**Things to be aware of – Did you know that Lilies**

(and many other plants) are poisonous to cats? That Daffodil bulbs are poisonous to cats and dogs? That Dog Spot on Flea Treatment is poisonous to cats?

There are many potential hazards to our pets that lurk in our house, garden and garage. Here is a quick guide of foods, plants and chemicals that may harm your pet.

**Lilies** – The whole plant is toxic even the pollen. Keep cut flowers well away from cats.

**Daffodil Bulbs** – Toxic to cats and dogs.

**Pointsetta, Amaryllis, Cyclamen** – May cause vomiting and diarrhoea in cats.

**Dark Chocolate** – Causes vomiting, diarrhoea and in severe cases affects liver and heart in dogs.

**Raisins & Grapes** – Toxic to dogs.

**Rat Poison** – Highly toxic to cats and dogs

**Antifreeze** – Highly toxic to cats and dogs

**Slug Pellets** – Highly toxic to cats and dogs

**Weed Killer** – Types containing paraquat highly toxic to cats and dogs.

**Human Medicines** – Paracetamol, ibuprofen, vitamins which include iron and zinc are all toxic to cats and dogs.

**Dog Spot on Flea Treatment** – If used on a cat this is highly toxic.

This is not a complete list of all things toxic to your pet, however they are the most common causes of poisoning in dogs and cats.

Symptoms of poisoning are shakiness, dribbling and fits. If you suspect your cat or dog has had contact with a poisonous substance they will need **immediate veterinary treatment.**



### Opening Hours over Christmas and New Year

All consultations by appointment

**Stantonbury Fields**

Christmas Eve	8am to 1pm
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	Closed
27 <sup>th</sup> December	9am to 1pm
29 <sup>th</sup> December	9am to 7pm
30 <sup>th</sup> December	9am to 7pm
31 <sup>st</sup> December	9am to 1pm
1 <sup>st</sup> January	Closed
2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Normal Hours

**Eaglestone**

Closed from 24<sup>th</sup> December to 1<sup>st</sup> January.  
Normal hours from 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2009.

**01908 321115**



**Any out of hours calls will automatically be diverted to BedsVets for emergency care. General enquiries cannot be dealt with out of hours and should only be made during the above opening hours.**