

What's on at Vets4Pets Barnsley

Newsletter - Winter 2022

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Advice for winter, the festive season and New Year! Plus, Surgery updates...

With Christmas and New Year's Eve approaching, it's a time for celebration. Here's some helpful advice to keep your pets happy and healthy during winter. Plus, an update on a recent surgery.

The team at Vets4Pets Barnsley are here to assist you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week over the Christmas and New Year period - we never close.



Strange things dogs eat...

A happy Staffordshire Bull Terrier was brought into our Practice by a concerned owner who had seen his pet eat a package. Unsure of what the package was, the owner contacted us immediately for assistance.

After a check-up it was discovered that Porridge had eaten a McDonald's sweet and sour dip sauce. The first attempt to remove the package was by inducing vomiting, but after many sausages and biscuits, there were no signs of the packaging, and a decision was made to progress to endoscopy.

Endoscopy is a minimally invasive procedure used with dogs and cats whereby a camera on a flexible tube is passed down the throat, and into the gastrointestinal tract. It can be used to retrieve items which shouldn't have been eaten or to help diagnose gastrointestinal conditions, abnormal cells, tumours, and some forms of cancer. Fine instruments can be passed down the endoscope tube to allow retrieval of items, or to take small biopsy samples. It provides little risk to the patient and is a less invasive and

less costly treatment when compared to surgical options. Pets will be placed under general anaesthesia for the procedure.

Dr Caroline Richards, Veterinary Surgeon, and Practice Owner said:

"It was challenging to pick the items up at the correct angle preventing damage to Porridge. It was a successful procedure which only took around 20 minutes.

Endoscopies are performed frequently in the hospital and is a specialised service that is offered here. It is a great procedure to offer as a minimally invasive option, preventing certain cases the need to go to surgery, where a pet would need longer recovery time."



Benefits of endoscopy:

- Excellent visualisation and sampling of the gastrointestinal and respiratory tract from the inside that allows for retrieval of foreign bodies (objects eaten that shouldn't be!)
- No incisions
- Short and relatively pain free recovery

Always be cautious and keep an eye on your pet for eating anything that may look unusual. Sometimes symptoms may not show right away, which was the case with Porridge, who showed no change in behaviour. If left untreated it could have led to internal trauma and obstruction.

Luckily, the owner of Porridge, immediately acted on his pet eating a strange object, which prevented further risks to Porridge.



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Vets4Pets

Advice for the Festive Season

Despite their fur, cats, dogs and small furries can feel the cold just the same as humans do. Here's some helpful advice to keep them happy and healthy during the winter months.

Dogs

Don't walk your dog on ice as just like us they can slip and injure themselves. Even more important is to make sure they don't run onto frozen lakes or canals, as they could fall into icy water if the ice is too thin. Grit and salt on your dog's paws can make them sore, so it is important to wash it off. It can also make them poorly if they lick it off, so always rinse your pup's paws after walks. Take care in snow, your dog might see it as a novelty but dangerous objects may be hidden underneath – also eating snow can cause stomach upset. Make sure your dog always has a fresh water supply.

Cats

Make sure that there is somewhere warm and cosy for your cat to sleep. Cats will curl up next to anything hot to keep warm, which can include under the bonnet of a car, so check where they are before you start the engine. Make sure your cat's water supply is never frozen and remember to check the water every day. Surprisingly, antifreeze smells and tastes good to cats so if they find it they will drink it. However, it is highly poisonous so make sure it is stored well out of reach and any spillages are cleaned up straight away.

Small Furries

Provide extra bedding for rabbits and other outdoor pets and be prepared to move them into a shed, un-used garage or utility room for shelter. If you move your rabbit indoors don't put them too close to a heater or radiator as they can very easily suffer from heat stress. If you are keeping your pet outside, beds or hutches should be raised off the ground to prevent the base becoming too cold, damp or rotten. Bedding should always be fresh and dry as it will freeze overnight even if it's slightly damp. Don't put house pets in greenhouses or conservatories due to the temperature changes. Also take care if they are living in garages that are regularly used by a car as there can be toxic fumes.

New Year

As with most of us, we anticipate that the festive period and the New Year will bring with it joy and happiness and most likely... a larger waistline. Same goes for your pets – they're just as susceptible to putting on a few pounds when everyone's feeling super nice at the dinner table and giving them scraps or by them eating all their Christmas presents at once! Our colleagues are here to help though, with all the guidance you need on diets, exercise and behaviours.

Don't forget...

We're open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Even over the bank holidays. We never close so we're here if you need us.



Vets4Pets Barnsley

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Call us: **01226 289000** or visit: **vets4pets.com/barnsley**



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