



CASTLE VETS PETS

Newsletter – December 2023

Tel: 01566 772211 | www.castleveterinarygroup.co.uk



Christmas Opening Hours

Please see our Christmas and New Year opening hours below. As always, there will be a vet on-call if you should need them in an emergency, just call 01566 772211.



Christmas Opening Hours

Saturday 23rd December - 8:30am to 3:00pm as usual
Sunday 24th December - CLOSED
Monday 25th December - CLOSED
Tuesday 26th December - CLOSED
Wednesday 27th December - 8:30am - 6:30pm as usual
Thursday 28th December - 8:30am - 6:30pm as usual
Friday 29th December - 8:30am - 6:30pm as usual
Saturday 30th December - 8:30am to 3:00pm as usual
Sunday 31st December - CLOSED
Monday 1st January 2024 - CLOSED
Tuesday 2nd January 2024 - Resume normal opening hours

Please do not worry if your pet should need a vet over the Christmas or New Year closure period, or indeed any time outside our normal opening hours, just call us on the usual number 01566 772211. We always have vets on duty 24/7 (please note, extra charges do apply).



We would like to wish all our clients and their pets a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Festive Biscuits for Dogs

The recipe below was sourced from the Blue Cross and if you would like to see a video showing you how to make the biscuits please visit:

<https://www.bluecross.org.uk/advice/dog/food-and-weight/homemade-christmas-biscuits-for-dogs>

What you'll need

- 1 egg
- 170g of boiled chicken breast
- 100g of cooked plain rice
- ¼ pint of chicken stock with no added salt
- 680g plain flour (you may need less flour than this recipe states so take a look at the video for the right consistency)

Utensils

- Blender or food processor
- Cookie cutters
- Rolling pin
- Baking paper
- Baking tray

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 180 degrees and line your baking tray with baking paper.
2. Add the boiled chicken breast, cooked rice and chicken stock to your blender. Blitz until it's nice and smooth.
3. Transfer the mixture to a bowl and add in the egg and flour. Mix well until the ingredients are all combined and resemble a dough-like consistency.
4. Place your dough on a clean surface dusted in flour and knead it until it's no longer sticky. Once ready, roll your dough out and cut out your festive shapes using a cookie cutter.
5. Place your cookies on a baking tray and bake for 25 - 30 minutes. Finally, let them cool before feeding them to your dog.

Note

Treats should be given occasionally and alongside a [well-balanced diet](#) and any new foods should be introduced slowly and in small quantities. Always check with your vet if your dog has any special dietary requirements.

New Face

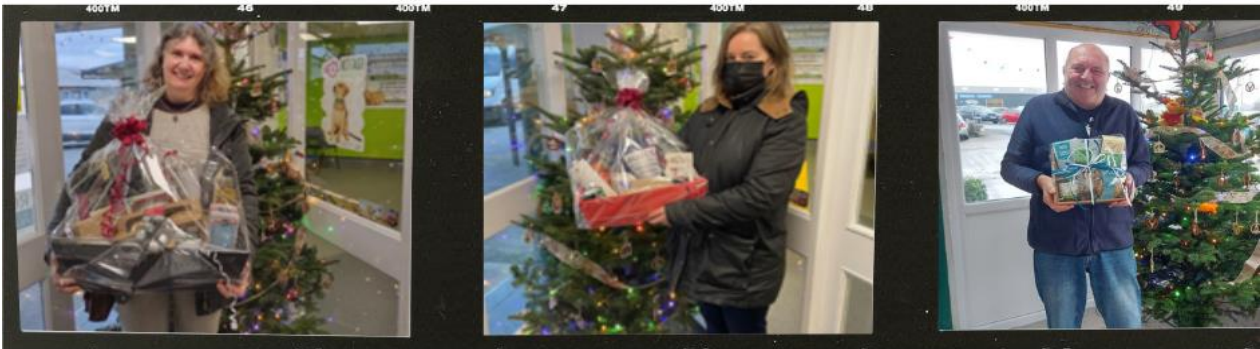


Pearl Walters – Assistant to Practice Manager

Pearl joined the practice in September 23. Coming from a farming background, Pearl has worked mainly within the Agricultural and community sector. Pearl has 3 dogs 'Ronnie' a Jack Russell and 'Ruby and Lucy' who are working Spaniels.

Castle Care Club Christmas Hampers

As a thank you to all our Castle Care Club members we will be holding a free raffle to win one of three amazing hampers full of local produce from Tre Pol & Pen. If you are a member of the Castle Care Club then you will automatically be entered, and the winners will be contacted directly when we have drawn the numbers on Monday 18th December. Good luck.



PREVIOUS WINNERS



Christmas Treats – Naughty or Nice

We all know that the treats that make an appearance at Christmas are hard to resist, and this is no different for our furry friends. It is important to be aware of the seasonal items that can be dangerous when consumed by your pet, so please have a read of the list below so you can be prepared!

- Holly, mistletoe and poinsettia are all toxic to dogs so keep them out of reach.
- Make sure all bones and carcasses are disposed of in a dog/cat proof way as cooked bones become brittle and can shatter when ingested.
- Christmas Cake, Pudding and Mince Pies are filled with currants, raisins and sultanas which are toxic to animals, as well as large amounts of fat which can cause severe stomach troubles and alcohol which results in symptoms similar to intoxication in humans.
- Chocolate contains a stimulant, Theobromine, that is poisonous to dogs and is present in higher quantities in dark chocolate.
- Grapes and raisins are poisonous to dogs although the exact cause is unknown, so it is best to avoid them as it is difficult to predict an exact volume needed to cause symptoms.
- Christmas decorations such as tinsel can cause serious problems if ingested.



There are many precautions you can take to help avoid these situations occurring and we've included some helpful tips for you to consider:

- Don't leave pets unattended.
- Use an extension cord that shuts off automatically if damaged.
- Don't leave presents containing chocolate under your Christmas tree.
- Opt for shatter proof baubles made of animal friendly material.
- If you're using a real tree, Hoover regularly to remove pine needles or opt for an artificial tree.
- Keep rubbish/wasted food in a shed or garage to avoid bin bags being ripped open.
- Lilies are extremely toxic to cats, avoid having them in the house near your feline friends.

If you know or are concerned that your pet has eaten something they should not have, please call the practice on 01566 772211.

Antifreeze Poisoning

Antifreeze poses a real danger to our pets if ingested. Drinking only a small amount can cause kidney failure and death, especially in cats. Antifreeze (ethylene glycol) is found in products such as car screen wash, brake and radiator fluid. Unfortunately, ethylene glycol is naturally sweet which is why our pets are often tempted to drink it.

If you think that your cat or dog has come into contact with antifreeze it is vital that you get them to a vet immediately.



Listed below are symptoms of antifreeze poisoning but please do not wait for symptoms to occur. If you suspect your pet has consumed antifreeze, even if it is only a small amount, contact us straight away! If your pet receives prompt veterinary treatment their chances of survival are increased. Lack of treatment can cause pain, suffering and ultimately death.

Symptoms to be aware of are:

- Vomiting
- Appearing drunk or uncoordinated
- Lethargy
- Twitchy eyes
- Twitchy muscles
- Seizures (fits)
- Difficulty breathing
- Drinking more than usual
- Collapse

How to protect your pet from antifreeze:

- Buy antifreeze that contains a bittering agent to discourage pets from drinking it.
- Check your car for water coolant leaks regularly.
- Store antifreeze away from pets, make sure it is clearly labelled and kept in a robust container with a tight seal.
- Clean up any spills immediately, no matter how small. Keep pets away from the area of the spillage until you are sure it is safe and clean.
- Exercise your dog away from areas where there could potentially be spills and avoid letting them roam around parked cars.

New Year Fireworks

Many of you will already have dealt with fireworks after Bonfire Night last month, however, it is worth being prepared for more, such as firework displays to celebrate the New Year. Please remember that cats and dogs react differently when scared, so a different approach is often necessary in order to keep your pets calm.

The following website (<https://www.apbc.org.uk/posters/>) offers useful information for dealing with fireworks, but please contact the surgery if you need advice. In some cases, a prescription medication is appropriate, however please be aware that a vet will need to assess your pet, so it is better to get them booked in in plenty of time.

Medication Orders

Please note that the last date for ordering medication in time for Christmas is Monday 18th December.

Update - Castle Vets Liskeard

As you can see from the pictures below work is well underway at the new Liskeard premises. A lot of progress has been made in a short space of time and we hope to be opening our doors very soon. An official opening date is just around the corner so keep your eyes peeled.

In the meantime, don't forget that you can register at either our Liskeard or Launceston branch by visiting our website <https://castleveterinarygroup.co.uk/> or call our Launceston branch to discuss our services or joining the Castle Care Club for all your vaccination and preventative care for your beloved pet/s.





We would like to wish all of our clients and their pets a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.