



# CASTLE VETS PETS

Newsletter – March 2024

Tel: 01566 772211 | [www.castleveterinarygroup.co.uk](http://www.castleveterinarygroup.co.uk)



## Easter Opening Hours for Launceston & Liskeard

**Easter Opening Hours**

Friday 29th March (Good Friday) - Closed

Saturday 30th March - Launceston 8:30am - 3:00pm / Liskeard Branch - Closed

Sunday 31st March (Easter Sunday) - Closed

Monday 1st April (Easter Monday) - Closed

Tuesday 2nd April - Normal Opening Hours Resume

## Easter Hazards for Pets

Easter is the time of year that us humans look forward to indulging in chocolate and hot cross buns, but did you know that these things can be harmful to our pets. Many of the foods we eat can be bad for our pets and this includes an Easter Sunday roast. We all know the power of pleading puppy eyes and the temptation to sneak them a bite under the table, but some foods traditionally served with a

roast are toxic to pets, too fatty or too salty for them. Roast ham for example contains high levels of salt which can cause neurological issues if your pet eats too much. It's not just dogs that may try and swipe food off the kitchen worktops, if you have a cat who enjoys a bit of counter surfing it's important to keep harmful food out of their reach too.



With large amounts of chocolate often found around the home at Easter time the risk of chocolate poisoning increases. Chocolate contains a chemical called theobromine, which can be poisonous to dogs, as well as most other animals such as cats, rodents and rabbits. The darker the chocolate the more theobromine it will contain. While Easter egg hunts are lots of fun it is important to make sure that the chocolate eggs are found by people not pooches. Please make sure that children are aware not to share their Easter goodies with their furry friends.

Even a small amount of grapes, or the dried versions of them (raisins, sultanas or currants) can be harmful to dogs. Hot cross buns and Simnel cake should be kept well out of reach.



It's not just food that we have to keep out of paws reach, springtime flowering bulbs and plants such as daffodils, tulips, and spring crocus are also dangerous. Lilies in particular are highly toxic to cats. Even Easter decorations pose a potential risk to our animals.



Things like the little fluffy chicks that often come in Easter baskets may look particularly delicious to a cat or dog and if swallowed could get stuck in the back of their throats, or in their stomachs and will not be able to pass through the intestines.

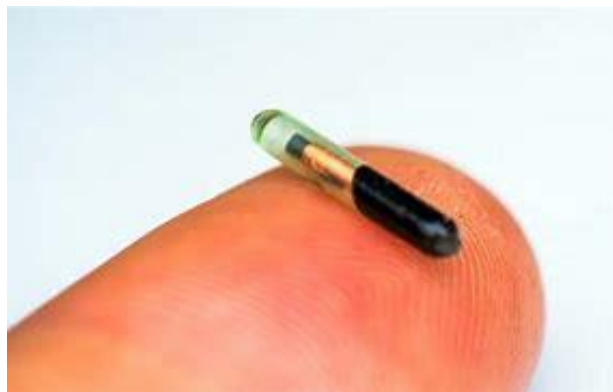
## **What to tell the vet if you suspect your pet has eaten something they shouldn't**

If you are concerned that your pet has come into contact with something poisonous or eaten something they shouldn't it is important to speak with your vet right away. When calling it is helpful if you know the answers to the following questions as this will help the vet to make an informed decision as to whether your pet needs to be treated by them and if so, what the best treatment will be:

- What has your pet been exposed to and include product name or list of ingredients if relevant?
- How much have they been exposed to?
- When did your pet come into contact with harmful food/poison/object (i.e 5 minutes, 5 hours or 5 days ago)
- Has your pet been unwell and if so, what are their symptoms?

Swift action is key with any suspected poisoning. Always contact us if you think your pet has come into contact with a dangerous substance or food and remember, do not wait for symptoms to occur!

## **Compulsory Microchipping for Cats**



It will soon be a legal requirement in England for all cats to be microchipped. Cats will need to be implanted with a microchip before they are 20 weeks old, and their details registered on a compliant database. All owners must have their cat microchipped before the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024. If your cat is found to have no microchip after this date, you will be given 21 days to get your cat microchipped or face a fine of up to £500. Microchipping helps reunite lost, stolen and injured pets with their owners as quickly as possible.

## Microchipped Cat – Change of Ownership

If you sell or rehome your cat, you will need to contact your microchip database company to let them know. You will then be given a form or code which should be passed on to your cat's new owner as this will enable them to change the details on the microchip. This process has been put in place to prevent people from changing a pet's microchip details without the owner's permission (i.e. if they were stolen). Please phone your microchip database ASAP if your cat is lost or stolen. They will then check that your details are up to date, flag your cat as being lost or stolen and contact you right away if they are found.

**Discounted microchip offer for cats coming soon – more details next month.**

## Valentine's Competition Winner ❤️

The lucky winner of the Liskeard Valentine's competition was 4-year-old Ruban. As you can see from the picture below, he was delighted to receive his Beco hamper filled with lots of goodies.



## New Face at Liskeard



Hannah is our newest member of the Castle Vets team at Liskeard. She began her training at the Launceston practice and is now working permanently at the Liskeard branch. Here is a bit about Hannah.....

*Hi, my name is Hannah, though everyone calls me Han. I'm 43 and I was brought up in Northamptonshire. I left school at 16 and went straight to Moulton Agricultural College where I studied my diploma in animal care before continuing onto my pre veterinary nurse course. In*

*2001 halfway through my first year I decided to relocate to Cornwall where I hoped to continue my training. There were no positions available at the time so found myself working as a negotiator at an estate agent in Fowey where I stayed for 10 years. I have 2 children, 1 cat, 1 chicken, a rabbit and a guinea pig. I am thrilled to be back in the veterinary environment.*

## Pet Anxiety Month – Anxious Dog Clinics

March is Pet Anxiety month and this campaign aims to help raise awareness about pet anxiety among owners and highlight strategies to help anxious pets. We know all too well how a trip to the vets can be very stressful for some dogs which is why we provide anxious dog clinics at our Launceston practice. These clinics are tailored specifically for those who really struggle with anxiety within a veterinary setting. This means while some things that we do in an anxious dog clinic may translate to other situations in life, these clinics are only to help with building your dog's confidence in the Veterinary practice.

We work on slowly building your dog's confidence around the practice and with people within the practice too! This is achieved by using the combined processes known as desensitisation and counterconditioning. Using these behaviour modification techniques, we can start to slowly expose your dog to triggers at a level they are able to cope with, replacing a negative response with something



more positive (a treat/toys/praise). Of course, this process is all gradual and we proceed at a pace suitable for the dog.



We offer these clinics at a price of £33 for 6 sessions. After an initial assessment, we can help you to set goals for your dog on what we would like to achieve within each timeframe and slowly work towards these. If you think that this is something that may benefit your dog, contact us on 01566 772211, and ask to speak to Tanya or Katie for more information.

If your pet is really struggling with other types of behavioural issues, we offer a consultation service where your pet's needs are investigated in detail and a programme devised to help address them. Please call our Launceston practice for more information.