



# BEWARE Lungworm!

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.**



**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. However, extra care is required if these plants are in your home. The white sap found 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.**

Again, always contact your vet immediately if your pet shows any of these signs.



# HALE

Veterinary Group

# news

Winter  
2022/23



## 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.

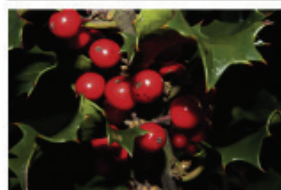
**\*\*PLEASE REMEMBER\*\*** Slug pellets placed in your garden are highly toxic, and can be fatal to dogs and other pets if eaten.

## 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 and 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 in some cases this can be fatal.



## Surgery hours

**Chippenham**  
01249 653561

Mon to Fri 8am - 8pm

Saturday 8.30am - 12noon  
and 2.30pm - 4pm

Sunday 10am - 1pm

**24hour 7day Emergency**

**Melksham**  
01225 709701

Mon to Fri 8.30am - 6.30pm

Saturday 2.30pm - 4pm

**Corsham**  
01249 715097

Mon to Fri 8.30am - 6.30pm

Saturday 10am - 12.30pm

**Calne**  
01249 815563

Mon to Fri 8.30am - 6.30pm

Saturday 9am - 10am



It's a busy and fun time for all, but please spare a few minutes to take note of our helpful reminders for pet happy festivities!

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



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

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

**R**ECHARGEABLE and regular batteries are extremely dangerous if chewed or swallowed by your pet.



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

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

**H**ELP our feathered friends in winter. Keep the wild bird table topped up.



**R**EMIND 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!

**I**f your pet falls ill when the surgery is closed, call our emergency service.

**S**UPERVISE all pets near open fires and log burners.

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

**M**INCE PIES contain raisins, which can be toxic to dogs if ingested .....grapes too.



**A**NTIFREEZE 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.

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



**HALE**  
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**Chippenham**  
19 Langley Rd SN15 1BS  
24hour 7day Emergency  
01249 653561

**Melksham**  
33 Union St SN12 7PR  
01225 709701

**Calne**  
Bank Row Church St  
SN11 0SG  
01249 815563

**Corsham**  
37 High St SN13 0EZ  
01249 715097

## 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 grooming ....you 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 your vet 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 Hale Vets News.



Carrie Cat



Reporter  
Extraordinaire

## Get your order in!

**Ho Ho Ho!** For some the festive plans are underway, so just a reminder that if your pet requires repeat medication or other pet supplies over the holiday season, **please do order well in advance.**

The surgery and our suppliers' opening hours vary during this period, so **please call us with your order to ensure you are stocked up before Christmas Eve!**



## Cat Flu

**Has your cat had their 'flu' jab yet?**

Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis and Feline Calicivirus are two types of cat flu. Any signs of excessive sneezing, runny nose, sore eyes or discharge, then a visit to the vet is needed. Better still protect your cat by vaccinating against cat flu.

