

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR YOUR PET



Don't forget about your pets this holiday season!!

We have a range of safe, exciting toys and accessories available that make great gifts for your valued family pet. We understand how hectic the build up to Christmas can be, so check out our web shop's for your shopping convenience where there are over 300 toys and accessories for sale

www.oakhill-vets.com/shop and

www.abbeyveterinarycentre.co.uk/shop.php

Shop online and pick up the next day* at your local surgery.

*On all orders placed before 3pm Mon - Thur and subject to availability



MEET THE TEAM ALISON COPLEY ADMIN



Alison has been with Oakhill & Abbey since 2004 running the day to day admin and Pet Health Plans at both of our Abbey surgeries and more recently Oakhill, Kirkham.

In her spare time, Alison enjoys spending time with her family, walking her boxer puppy 'Betsy', socialising with her friends and reading.

OAKHILL & ABBEY VETS SMALL ANIMALS

WINTER 2011



CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Over Christmas, we will have a small animal animal surgery open every day except Christmas Day at one of our four surgeries to avoid any inconvenience to our clients. In emergencies when our small animal surgeries are not open please ring 01772 700671 (Watling Street Road) or 01772 718774 (Conway Drive) and you will be given details for the dedicated out of hours emergency service Vets Now.

Friday 23rd December: **ALL** four surgeries open as usual
Christmas Eve Sat 24th December: **8.00 - 2.30pm** Abbey Conway Dr & **8.00 - 12noon** Oakhill, Kirkham
Christmas Day Sun 25th December: **ALL surgeries closed please ring Vets Now as above**
Boxing Day Mon 26th December: **9.30 - 11.30am** Surgery at Abbey, Conway Drive
Bank Holiday Tue 27th December: **9.30 - 11.30am** Surgery at Abbey, Watling Street Road
Wednesday 28th December: **ALL** four surgeries open as usual
Thursday 29th December: **ALL** four surgeries open as usual
Friday 30th December: **ALL** four surgeries open as usual
New Years Eve Sat 31st December: **8.00 - 2.30pm** Abbey Conway Dr & **8.00 - 12noon** Oakhill, Kirkham
New Years Day Sun 1st January: **9.30 - 11.30am** Surgery at Abbey, Watling Street Road
Bank Holiday Mon 2nd January: **9.30 - 11.30am** Surgery at Abbey, Conway Drive
Tuesday 3rd January: **ALL** four surgeries open as usual



Oakhill, Langley Lane, Goosnargh, Preston, PR3 2JQ T: 01772 861300

Oakhill, 71 Station Road, Kirkham, Lancashire, PR4 2HD T: 01772 681992

Abbey, 93 - 97 Conway Drive, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 3ER T: 01772 718774

Abbey, 220 Watling Street Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8AD T: 01772 700671

www.oakhill-vets.com www.abbeyveterinarycentre.co.uk



CHRISTMAS POISONS

Christmas is a very exciting time but it is important for pet owners to be aware of potential toxic substances that tend to be more prevalent during the holiday season. Some of the most common culprits include:

• Chocolate

The toxic component of chocolate is called theobromine [a compound similar to caffeine]. The amount of theobromine varies in different types of chocolates. The content in white chocolate is fairly low, milk chocolate has a moderate amount and the content in dark/pure chocolate or cocoa powder is relatively high. Thus, the toxicity of chocolate depends on what type, how much is ingested and the size of your dog. The most common clinical symptom of chocolate poisoning in dogs is vomiting and diarrhoea. This along with the fact that theobromine is a diuretic puts dogs at risk of dehydration. Other effects that can occur are hyperactivity, increased body temperature, increased blood pressure and increased heart rate. Tremors and convulsions can also be observed in extreme cases. There is no specific antidote for chocolate poisoning and the treatment is supportive and symptomatic. If your dog has eaten any type of chocolate of any amount, **seek veterinary attention as soon as possible** as most of the risk can be reduced by immediately inducing vomiting to remove the toxin and administering an oral substance to reduce further absorption of any chocolate still in the gastrointestinal tract.

• Grapes/Raisins, Currants and Sultanas

The toxic mechanism of these fruits in animals is not known, but they can cause kidney failure in dogs and possibly cats. Some dogs can eat large quantities without any effects and others will develop renal failure with as few as a handful. The initial signs are usually vomiting and diarrhoea, which then progress to renal failure in 24-72 hours. Again, no specific antidote exists, thus the treatment is supportive, with IV fluids to attempt to protect the kidneys. **Watch out for things like Christmas cake/pudding and mince pies!**

• Nuts

Peanuts have been reported to have adverse effects in some pets. Some reported symptoms included, vomiting/diarrhoea, twitching, spasm,



agitation and convulsions. Macadamia nuts are also toxic to dogs and can cause weakness, tremors, vomiting, depression, lameness and stiffness.

• Allium species

These foods include onions, garlic, leeks, shallots and chives. They can be toxic raw or cooked. Initially vomiting and diarrhoea is seen. This is followed by a serious condition called haemolytic anaemia [destruction of red blood cells] from 1-5 days later. **Many foods can contain these ingredients unknowingly, so avoiding any 'table scraps' is recommended.**

• Xylitol

An artificial sweetener found in some chewing gums and can be bought in large quantities for home baking/cooking. In dogs it causes rapid hypoglycaemia [low blood sugar] and liver failure.

• Plants

Holly and Ivy are generally not much of a worry but ingestion can cause irritation, which may result in drooling, retching or vomiting. Mistletoe ingestion generally causes similar signs, though neurological signs have been reported with ingestion of mistletoe in America [different plant species]. Poinsettia is reported to be very toxic to cats, though ingestion most commonly causes gastric irritation. If your pets love to eat plants or anything they shouldn't, it is safer just to avoid these in house as keeping them out of reach can be easier said than done!!

[Information adapted from VPIS]

CHARITY FUN DAY AT OUR KIRKHAM BRANCH



On Saturday the 1st October we held a fun day at our new Kirkham branch, the weather stayed fine and the surgery was packed with clients and non clients wanting to join in with the fun.

The most popular attractions had to be the face painter 'Smarty Faces' (who didn't

stop for a break in the four hours she was there) and Hands On Animals who amazed the visitors with their selection of animals and reptiles including a snake, sugar glider and tarantula.

Also in attendance were three local charities, Lancashire Cat Rescue (who came along with six very cute kittens that they currently have to rehome), the Northern Greyhound Rescue (who attended with a number of their re-homed greyhounds) and the Preston Hedgehog Rescue (who also bought along some Hedgehogs they

currently have in their care.)

A big thank you also goes to Andrea Johnson (Andrea Johnson Photography) for supporting the event and for offering a portrait shoot for the winner of her raffle and Amanda from Vets Now our out of hours service. Amanda had a stand in our operating theatre where she provided lots of information on the emergency care service and she also kindly provided an ipod shuffle for the raffle.

Finally thank you to all our clients, staff and sponsors who were there to help and support the charity fun day!

All donations and money raised on the day will be split between the three charities.



LUMPS AND BUMPS

It is important to regularly groom and stroke your pets, not just because you both enjoy it, but also to alert you to any developing lumps.

Lumps on our pets can have several causes, these include: allergic reactions [such as insect stings/bites], infections [such as abscesses common in cats], hernias and tumours. Tumours can

be the most worrisome for owners. Tumours can be either benign – which tend to be slow growing and remain in one place, or malignant – which can be fast growing, invade the surrounding tissue and have the



potential to spread to other parts of the body. Although some lumps have a characteristic appearance, it is often not possible to diagnose a lump on appearance alone and further diagnostic test are required. If you do find a lump on your pet, it is important to have it examined as soon as possible because delay

in appropriate treatment can be the difference between a small mass this is easily treatable and one that is far more difficult to treat or possibly untreatable.