



In this edition!

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Watch out for these Easter hazards

Chocolate and Easter treats

Chocolate contains theobromine and caffeine, compounds that are poisonous to pet. How dangerous chocolate is depends on the type and amount eaten and the size and health of your pet. Certain sweets can be toxic to our pets if ingested, and some sweeteners can cause low blood sugar and liver damage.

Dried fruit

Easter snacks containing dried fruit should be kept safely out of reach from pets, as they can cause damage to your pet's kidneys if eaten. The sooner we can intervene when pets eat toxic foods, the better. If you are worried that your pet has eaten something they shouldn't, we are here to help.

Spring cleaning

Be careful about using cleaning products around pets. Many household cleaning agents contain chemicals that can be harmful or toxic to pets, so be careful that they don't ingest them or get them on their skin or paws. If you're worried that your pet has come into contact with or ingested a cleaning product or is showing signs of distress, please contact the practice immediately.

Grass seeds

Grass seeds might seem harmless, but they can pose a threat to our pets. They have tiny barbs that can lodge into the skin, paws, ears, eyes and nostrils, leading to irritation, discomfort, infections or abscesses if not promptly removed. After walks in grassy areas and woodland, brush through your pet's coat and check their fur, especially their ears, armpits and between their toes, for any lodged seeds. If you suspect your pet has encountered grass seeds or is showing signs of discomfort, such as excessive licking, sneezing or pawing at their ears or eyes, please contact our team as soon as possible.

Flowers

Flowers such as lilies, tulips, daffodils, azaleas and chrysanthemums are toxic to pets if ingested. Even small amounts can lead to various health issues, ranging from gastrointestinal upset to more severe conditions like kidney failure. If you think that your pet has nibbled on or ingested any flowers, especially those known to be toxic, please contact us straight away. Quick action is crucial to reduce potential harm.

For further advice about keeping your pet safe this spring, please contact our team.





Protect your pet from fleas

Fleas are parasitic insects which feed on your pet's blood. Your pet can catch them from other animals or by visiting somewhere where fleas are present in the environment.

Fleas multiply rapidly and have a life-cycle that involves stages both on your pet and in their surrounding environment.

They can cause a range of symptoms, from general discomfort and itching to skin infections and anaemia, and can play a role in infecting your pet with tapeworm. Not all pets will show obvious signs of these infections.

Our team will be happy to recommend preventative treatments tailored to your pet's lifestyle and their environment.

Why neutering could be purrfect for your cat

Neutering is a simple routine procedure that stops cats from being able to have kittens. It can bring about many health and behavioural benefits and the recovery time is usually quick, with cats normally able to go home the same day as the procedure.

Cats can be neutered at most ages, with the right timing and approach varying depending on your cat's age, breed and health. You should always speak to your vet regarding the most appropriate time to neuter your cat, as factors such as their health, breed, lifestyle and environment should be considered.

Cats are prolific breeders, so neutering can also help to prevent unwanted litters and alleviate the strain that rescue centres face.

If you have any questions about neutering or would like to book an appointment, please get in touch.



Skin health matters!

You probably see your pets scratching from time to time, which can be perfectly normal behaviour. However, when the itching becomes more frequent, it can be a sign of an underlying skin condition.

Allergies are a common cause of itchy, irritated skin and can include flea, environment, food or contact allergies. Here are some signs and behaviours to look out for which might mean your pet is suffering with a skin disease:

- Red, itchy skin
- Constant, excessive licking, chewing or scratching
- Recurrent itchy ears and ear infections
- Hair loss
- Scabs, sores or crusts on the skin
- Body odour



If you've noticed any of these signs, get in touch with our team to see how we can help ease your pet's discomfort.