

# Newsletter



## Happy Christmas..Nadolig Llawen

**Wishing all our clients and their pets a wonderful Christmas.**

We will have vets on duty over the holiday period for any emergencies you may have, please ring the usual number.

Remember to book repeat prescriptions in plenty of time as deliveries from our suppliers will be limited over this period, so we need your orders in early please.

Make sure your pets are up to date with their worm and flea treatments before your guests arrive.

If your pets are going into kennels or catteries ensure their boosters are up to date. Dogs should get Kennel Cough vaccine too.

Think about the potential hazards in your home at this busy time to avoid accidents. See the list in the "Did you know?" section and see the display in our waiting room.

If you know your pet gets stressed by change, visitors or a trip into kennels there are medications and stress reducing pheromones or herbal sprays and plug-ins that can help. Please ask for advice.



Pets As Therapy is a national charity founded in 1983. It is unique in that it provides therapeutic visits to hospitals, hospices, nursing and care homes, special needs schools and a variety of other venues by volunteers with their own friendly, temperament tested and vaccinated dogs and cats.

Today there are currently around 4,500 active PAT visiting dogs and 108 PAT cats at work in the UK. Every week these calm friendly dogs and cats give more than 130,000 people,

both young and old, the pleasure and chance to cuddle and talk to them. The bedsides that are visited each year number a staggering half million.

This is a community led charity, which very much thinks nationally but acts locally, particularly in respect of vital fund raising activities. Not every dog can be a Pets As Therapy dog and not every dog owner has the time to undertake regular hospital visits. However, the charity is working hard on a day-to-day basis to recruit and register more suitable dogs, and their volunteer owners, to swell numbers and meet demand

All Pets As Therapy dogs and cats are required to pass an assessment to check their temperament by Pets As Therapy accredited assessors or qualified vets be fully vaccinated, wormed and protected against fleas. Records are required by the charity and each volunteer is bound to send copies when boosters have been given.

For more information <http://www.petsastherapy.org/general/about-the-charity>



### OPENING HOURS

MON - FRIDAY

8.30AM - 5.00PM

SATURDAY

9.00AM - 12.00PM

24 HR

EMERGENCY COVER

PLEASE USE THE USUAL  
NUMBER

01559 363318

## Did You Know?

Common reasons for pets needing to see Vets over the Christmas period:

Eating something they shouldn't. Chocolate is top of the list, closely followed by fruit cake and grapes.

String and elastic bands from around meat and other foods will cause big dangers if swallowed.

Cats will play with tinsel but again will get into trouble if they decide to eat it.

Lilies are highly toxic to cats, causing irreversible kidney damage if not treated promptly. Keep them out of harms way.

Mistletoe berries can be fatal to puppies.

Poinsettia have irritant sap.

Pancreatitis is caused by ingestion of rich or fatty foods, leading to days in the hospital on pain killers and fluids. Beware overfeeding sausages, bacon, biscuits or cream to avoid a lengthy hospital stay.

Are you insured with any of the RSA insurers? Tesco, More Than, M&S, John Lewis, Argos and Homebase.

There are some changes afoot that will allow the insurer to dictate which referral centres you will be able to use. Using a referral centre that is not approved is likely to hit your pocket. Extra fees will be imposed for using "off list" choices. The exception will be in an emergency, when the pet's safety is paramount.

It is worth checking with your insurer to see if the changes will affect your pet if they require more specialised treatments than we can provide locally.

Other insurance companies have not been involved as yet but are always subject to change.

Unexpected injuries or illnesses can hit our pockets at the most inconvenient times, such as Christmas! Insurance is invaluable to avoid the headache of making treatment choices based on cost.

You just need to be aware of the restrictions that may apply in advance, so that you get maximum benefit and minimise pitfalls.

Be prepared - Write down your policy number, period of cover, policy excess (the amount your insurer will expect you to pay) and your insurance contact number into a diary or your smart phone, then if the worst happens you have all the information to hand. We can also add insurance details to your pet records at the surgery, to help with future claims.

## Stress Cystitis in Cats

Christmas is a common time for us to see cystitis cases in cats. So what is going on in their life.....??

### Cats perspective

*My favourite sofa has been covered with some weird smelling blanket and cushions and they keep putting me in that basket thing on the draughty floor where I can no longer see out of the window or avoid the dog.*

*My owner comes home late with bags of shopping, with nothing in them for me! Then she forgets to feed me until bedtime or starts putting my bowl out in the porch. Next doors cat keeps poking his head in through the cat flap and its freaking me out!*

*A giant tree has been moved in, but my owner shouts hysterically at me whenever I attempt to climb it.*

*My litter tray seems to have disappeared entirely?*

*I have never seen so many people in all my life, they are all crammed into my favourite room and I haven't a clue how I am going to get from this hiding place under the stairs to the cat flap so that I can go outside for a pee?*

*Oh no, where did that terrier come from? The only place he can't reach me is on top of this wardrobe.*

A mixture of extra stresses and the inability to perform normal toileting habits is a recipe for disaster.

You need to disturb your cats normal routine as little as possible. If you cannot avoid a chaotic house then think about setting up a quiet room, with all your cat's needs, well in advance of the turmoil.

Try *Feliway* - a pheromone that comes as a spray or a plug-in. It is a scent which is associated with friendly and calm cats, keeping those stress feelings at bay.

Try putting a cardboard box on its side around the cat litter tray and keep it where it normally lives. It will be less visible to your guests and the cat will feel a little safer, hidden from view. It may be better to have a few dotted around, so that there is always one that can be reached without having to run the gauntlet past your guests.

*Zylkene* tablets are another product that can help calm your cat. The chemical is similar to that produced in mothers milk, known for its calming properties.

If your cat is prone to stress cystitis, it is worth giving a *Cystophan* tablet daily. It has one chemical that helps protect the bladder lining and another (L-Tryptophan) which is a known calming agent.

If you have a male cat, cystitis can very quickly become an emergency, as they are much more likely to block. Always phone us if your cat is squatting and struggling to produce urine.



## New Qualified and Registered Nurse starting.

Kate Tucker will join us from the 1st December. Qualified for 8 years, Kate has a wealth of experience. She has a particular interest in rabbits and will be holding some special rabbit clinics in the New Year.

She will be a great addition to the team.



If you have a dog that is always on edge, gets upset when you leave the house, it may be worth trying a ThunderShirt. It is essentially a tight fitting vest. Tests have found that these tight wrappings, much like swaddling infants, can actively calm and drop heart rates. Price £30



## Free microchipping

The Dogs Trust are once again offering free microchips. If you have a dog that requires a chip, please make an appointment for a nurse chipping clinic.

If your pet is due for an operation, we will offer to chip your dog at the same time.

This offer will run whilst funds last, so don't wait if you would like to take advantage of the offer.