

MINTLAW VET SURGERY

Newsletter



OPENING TIMES OVER XMAS

Fri 23rd Dec – 8.30-6.30

Sat 24th Dec – 9-12.30

Sun 25th Dec -XMAS DAY – CLOSED

Mon 26th Dec – BOXING DAY – CLOSED

Tues 27th Dec – 10-1 urgent cases by appointment

Wed 28th/Thurs 29th/Fri 30th/Sat 31st – open as normal

Mon 2nd Jan – CLOSED

Tues 3rd Jan -10-1 urgent cases by appointment

Staff News

- Our congratulations go to Hilary and her husband Scott on the birth of their son 'Finlay' on 14th October, and a very well done to Hilary for the speedy delivery. The family looked well when they all popped in for a visit recently and seem to be enjoying family life with their new arrival.

- A huge thank you all clients who supported our PINK DAY in aid of Breast Cancer. The staff supported the cause by donning various items of pink attire from wigs and ears to fluffy slippers and colourful socks. Laura provided a pink themed buffet for the staff including an amazingly decorated cake which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The raffle for the pink hamper was drawn by a visiting rep and won by Mr & Mrs Henderson. Well done to them. The total proceeds of the day raised an amazing £327.70

Other staff news to watch out for early in the new year is a forthcoming wedding. One of our well known members of staff is taking the plunge and we all wish her and her husband-to-be the very best for the day and much happiness for the future. Watch this space to see who will be taking the plunge and tying the knot....to give you a clue Try hard to think and you may Touch on an idea.

Practice News

- During this holiday season, bear in mind of some typical FESTIVE HAZARDS which can present dangers ranging from mild tummy upsets to potentially fatal conditions. Owners need to be aware of the following :-

*chocolate- do not give or allow your pet access to any chocolate products which is intended for humans, the cocoa content is highly toxic and can cause serious health issues very quickly. Other food products which can affect your pets' health are raisins, sultanas, (found in Christmas cake) and grapes. There are also certain plants and flowers which are toxic to pets...mistletoe, holly, lilies and daffodils all present a danger and are often found in homes at this time of year. Also

remember to keep pets away from obvious dangers such as decorations, tinsel, ribbon, wrapping paper, baubles and wire or fairy lights, all of which can be chewed, eaten or caught around parts of the body.

An important note from vet, Monica Coyle regarding the severe dangers of anti-freeze, screen wash and de-icers.

Perils of winter.....

At this time of year, we all make sure to top our screen-wash up with anti-freeze to ensure we can see out of our windscreens – but, how often do we spill some?

Anti-freeze contains a chemical called ethylene glycol – this is sweet tasting, and, when broken down in the body, makes a product which is extremely poisonous to the kidneys, resulting in acute kidney failure. This can cause irreversible changes within 4 hours of consumption.

At this time of year, often the only puddles of water available for drinking from by cats, dogs, or wildlife, are those containing anti-freeze – the rest tend to be frozen solid. So, as it's available, and tastes sweet, animals will consume it with no idea of the risks.

In almost all cases, by the time we are presented with a case, it is too late to save the kidneys, and the animal will be euthanased. This is extremely distressing to the pet and their owner.

So, please be extremely careful with anti-freeze – avoid spillages, or wipe them up with absorbable towel, and make sure that bottles are properly sealed, and stored correctly to avoid them being knocked over and cracked.

Let's make it a safe winter for us, and our pets!
Monica Coyle

If you suspect that your pet has swallowed or been in contact with any of the above call the surgery and we will advise on the best course of action.

- If you are planning time away over Christmas or New Year, don't be caught out if you are planning on putting your pet into kennels. Make sure that your pets boosters and kennel cough vaccines for dogs are up to date. Try to ensure kennel cough vaccines are done at least a week prior to the pet going into kennels but to be sure check with the individual establishment as they all have different criteria. We will continue to send out reminders for boosters but they have a brand new look so keep your eye on the post!!

Mintlaw Vet Surgery Dunshillock Mintlaw Ab424JN.

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- As it seems we may be in for a re-run of last years adverse weather conditions please ensure that you are prepared and that repeat prescription checks are kept up-to-date, remember that these checks are essential requirement to ensure your pet is correctly medicated. If you require medication for your pet please to try call us well in advance and allow time to plough through the snow or ice to collect it. We are always happy to order food in for you to collect but advise that you phone us with the order a day or two before.

*With the icy temperatures in mind, remember to keep a check on small furies. Ideally bring hutches into a well ventilated garage or shed, however if they are to remain outside then provide extra insulation and bedding. Always ensure that fresh food and water is provided daily and regular checks are made to check for frozen water bottles.

* Finally, remember if you are planning on seeing in Hogmany with a bang, spare a thought for those pets who may have a fire work phobia. We always have in stock DAP products and Zylkene capsules and now stock Calmex,, a fresh product recommended to help with pets who suffer from phobias and stress.

Shop news

Hurry along to the surgery to pick up last minute festive treats. We have a range of festive stock including treats and toys. Also back in stock are Blinkies, the flashing collar tags, they come in a smart presentation box making ideal gifts. For winter wear for your pooch we have new stock, a 2in 1 coat, coming in a range of colours along with the ever popular Timberwolf range. There is a selection of leads and collars for all your pets including harnesses for rabbits. To freshen up your pet there is a full range of Pet Head products. Why not pop along to the surgery during opening hours and have a browse around.

POLITE NOTICE.....if weather changes for worse and road conditions deteriorate, please ensure that you leave adequate time for your journey so you arrive for your appointment on time. Or if you are unable to keep your appointment please let us know as soon as possible.

Please note the procedure for out of hours calls and make sure you are organised for the festive season....

A note from vet, Monica Coyle:-While we hope that you and your pets have a happy and healthy Christmas, things can, and sometimes do, go wrong!

Over Christmas and New Year, we will be closed on bank holidays. We will still be providing emergency cover on call, as always, but this needs a wee bit of forward planning to take the stress out of a situation if something does go wrong.

When you phone the surgery out of hours, the call goes to a message handling service – the staff here are very good, and will take your details, your contact number, and a brief note of what the problem is – this is then transferred to us via a pager, and we call you back – please do not make any calls until we have called you back – there is nothing worse than being paged to an emergency, and finding the number engaged!

Sometimes, we are able to give advice on the phone and your pet might not need to be seen. However, if we feel that it would be better for your pet to be examined, we will ask you to bring your pet to the surgery – this means someone needs to drive, or, you need to call a taxi – we recommend that you identify a local taxi service who will carry pets in advance, so if you've had a wee glass of festive cheer, there's no panic!

We can occasionally provide house visits – however, this can be very difficult for us to manage, depending on what other cases we have in the surgery, and also what other calls we receive – we cover a large geographical area.

Vets do not carry any drugs with them when on call – this means that if someone calls out of hours and requests a visit, the vet has to go to the surgery, try to gauge the drugs which may be needed, figure out where the address is, and then head out – this adds a long delay before your pet can be seen and treated, which is not really appropriate for emergency cases.

This can be an expensive time of year, but please budget for emergencies – the fees out of hours are more expensive than normal, and normal terms and conditions apply.

We wish you a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year – we hope that you don't need any unplanned visits to see us, but we hope this helps in case you do need us!

Finally we wish you and your pets a safe and happy end to 2011 and very best wishes for 2012

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