



I Don't Feel Well



"Yes that's right... they are all gone except one... the orange cream!"

This was one dog owner's report to a veterinary receptionist, when she called for advice after her dog had just scooped a box of birthday chocolates she received that morning. The gift was momentarily left unattended in all the excitement, and the dog seized the opportunity for a choc feast! Why the orange cream was left is a complete mystery, and although amusing, we must say chocolate eating by dogs is no laughing matter. **It contains theobromine and caffeine, which are poisonous to animals,** and can cause major illness. Sadly in some cases it may even be fatal.

The effects depend on the time lapsed since the chocolate was eaten, the size of your pet, how much and what type. **Dark, bitter chocolate is particularly dangerous,** but **any** has the potential to make your dog poorly. In this particular case, the owner seeing the ripped, almost empty box, called her vet immediately. She arrived some ten minutes later with her dog, who despite eating his owner's present, showed no remorse and looked very happy.

This can be very deceiving for the owner, if your pet is showing no signs of illness. Don't be fooled; it is vital to treat your pet quickly, as the theobromine and caffeine can begin to affect their heart rate, increase blood pressure and inflame the pancreas. Fortunately for this dog the offending chocolate was removed by medically induced vomiting, and with some further treatment, he went home a few hours later. Chocolate poisoning is more likely to occur in dogs, as their excellent sense of smell can sniff out the stash! So with chocolate at home in some form, **especially during the festive season,** please store all chocolate or foods containing it, well out of your pets reach.

Signs of chocolate poisoning are
Vomiting - Diarrhoea - Hyperactivity
Muscle Twitching - Increased Heart Rate
Seizures - Collapse

There is no antidote for chocolate poisoning.

If you suspect your dog has eaten chocolate or notice any of the above signs, call us immediately. If you can tell us the type, e.g. dark or milk, biscuits, cake, powdered etc., when it was eaten and the quantity, this will help with our calculations and enable us to give you the best advice.

For further information please speak with our friendly team.

Fireworks screech and fizz in the dark winter night
But have you thought they can cause a dreadful fright
To pets found hiding under beds, tables and chairs
Nervous and bewildered at the sudden bangs and flares!
So spare a few moments to prepare a quiet safe place
With toys, treats, blankets and a friendly face.
Be happy, play a game and don't scold fearful pets
And remember help and advice are here at our vets.



CLINIC HOURS

Our friendly staff are available for pet health care and advice

Monday to Friday
8.30am to 7.00pm

Saturday
8.30 - 1.00pm

Consultations by appointment

01923 894274

24 Hour 7 day
Emergency Service



At a screen near you.....www.avenuesvet.co.uk

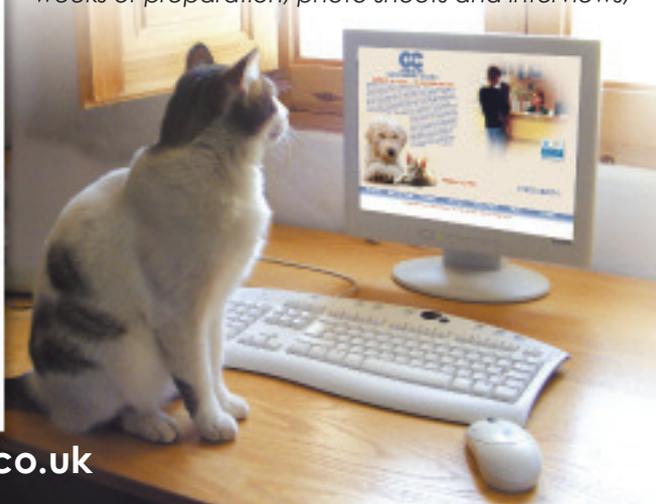
Starring the familiar faces who care for your pets

In the making it was kept a secret, locations were closely guarded, staff kept low profiles, but now after weeks of preparation, photo shoots and interviews,

we proudly announce the going live of our brand new website. Log on to **www.avenuesvet.co.uk** where you will find our website full of information on the staff, where we are our located, opening times and much more. Browse through our pages at your leisure and see the excellent services and facilities we provide for the care of your much-loved pets. You can register your pets on line and even send us a message.

Our website will be a continuing work in progress, so look out for updates, new features and special offers. Enjoy visiting our new look website, and if you have any queries, comments or suggestions about what you would like to access on it, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Happy browsing!



Cats and Diabetes



Every part and organ in your pet's body has a function to perform to keep them healthy, but at times there is a hiccup in the system. **Diabetes Mellitus** is quite a common condition in animals, and is when the body has difficulty in regulating blood sugar levels. It has long been recognised in dogs, but in the last few years we have seen an increase of the condition in cats.

What goes wrong?

In the pancreas, cells produce insulin. If these fail to work, it affects sugar metabolism in the body. Sugar in the form of glucose, is an essential part of digestion and energy. Insulin is required to help the utilisation of glucose by the liver from the bloodstream. If insulin levels are low, glucose levels are excessively high and this affects metabolism. The kidneys then tip this 'waste sugar' into the urine. If left untreated, diabetes can lead to a form of blood poisoning called ketosis.

Causes can be

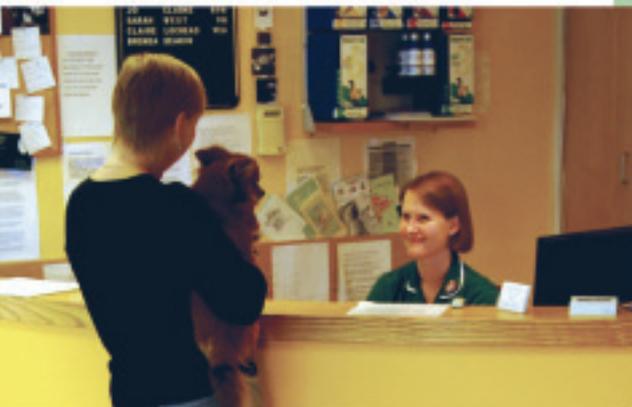
Obesity ~ Inactive Lifestyle ~ Overeating
Incorrect Diet ~ Damaged Pancreas

Diabetic signs in your cat

Are they drinking more water than usual?
Urinating frequently? ~ Lethargic?
Lost weight despite an increase in appetite?

If you have answered 'yes' to any of the above questions, then please bring your cat along for a check-up. If after examination we suspect diabetes, tests can be done to confirm the condition.

Treatment is available for diabetes and although not curable, it is manageable with medication and a dietary change. Your cat will need to visit us now and again, so we can check their sugar and insulin levels, plus we provide all the help and support you need. Once regular treatment is in place, your cat should enjoy a good quality of life.



Did you know that electronic cigarettes can be a major hazard for your pets?

These devices are full of nicotine, which is toxic to animals, and it is not just the nicotine that can cause problems.

Any pet especially the young and inquisitive, could sustain a mouth injury from just chewing the 'cigarette' part.

Fragments swallowed, may cause internal obstructions, and the small battery also poses a danger. However, it is the e-cigarette cartridge holding the liquid nicotine that is potentially the major threat. If your pet ingests the liquid, it can be just a short time before they show signs including

depression
vomiting
increased heart rate
agitation - muscle tremors - diarrhoea

Seizures may also occur, and depending on the size of the dog and quantity of liquid ingested, it can prove fatal. Please make all family members or visitors to your home aware of the potential danger to your pets, and ensure that all electronic cigarettes plus any cartridge packs are placed out of your pet's reach.



Have a Cracker of a Time!

In days past a wishbone was used to predict the weather! Now we make a wish while pulling this bone. Watch your pet does not snack on turkey bones, which are sharp, and can get lodged in the mouth, throat, stomach or intestine.

Guinea pigs are one of the oldest domestic animals dating back to 1000-500BC. Small pets outside require daily checks, plenty of warm bedding and unfrozen water.

In the 18th century candles lit up the Christmas tree. By early 20th century strings of electric lights became popular and still are! With extra cables around beware of your pets chewing at wires and connectors.

It has been found that raisins and grapes are toxic to dogs. Although unclear as to why these fruits are poisonous, if ingested they can cause kidney failure.

Q: What happened when the dog went to the flea circus?
A: He stole the show!
(keep up those treatments!)
Q: Who delivers Christmas presents to cats? A: Santa Paws!
(don't forget your pet's gift!)



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