



# What We Have and Do

At our Veterinary Practice each day is different. It can be a day of routine vaccinations or it is all hands on deck for an emergency life saving operation. In the past, our options were limited in how we treated and cared for the animal community. Now though, with extensive scientific

research and modern technology, this has opened up an advanced level of animal care, which almost matches that of human medicine.

We understand it can be an anxious time for you when your pet is ill, and an unsettling experience for them too. However, we can assure you that our dedicated, compassionate, professional and experienced team, calming atmosphere and excellent well-equipped facilities will benefit you both.

**Reception and Waiting Area   Consultation Rooms   Nurse Room  
Operating Theatre   Prep Room   Pharmacy   Dog and Cat Wards**

Our advanced diagnostic equipment enables us to identify and treat your pets' symptoms quickly and accurately.

**Digital X-Ray   Ultrasound   Endoscopy  
ECG   In-House Laboratory**

We also offer a comprehensive range of services to our patients

**Preventative Healthcare   Dental Care  
Routine Vaccinations & Check-Ups  
Well Pet Health Assessment & Blood Screening  
Referrals  
Neutering  
Pet Insurance  
Repeat Medication   Prescription Diets  
Free Nurse Clinics   Pets Passport  
Pet Healthcare Plans**



If you would like further information on any of our facilities and services, please do not hesitate to contact our friendly team. We would love to hear from you!

## CLINIC HOURS

Our friendly staff are available for pet healthcare and advice

**Monday to Friday  
8.30am to 7.00pm**

**Saturday  
8.30 - 12noon**

Consultations by appointment

**01923 894274**

**24 Hour 7 day  
Emergency Service**



# AVENNEWS

## Pyometra

Making you aware of as many conditions as possible that could affect your pets' health, may help you recognise a problem in its early stage. Obtaining advice or any necessary treatment contributes greatly towards helping your pet recover, and remain healthy to enjoy a happy life with you. Some conditions are fairly minor and need little treatment, while others are of a more serious nature that require immediate veterinary care, like **Pyometra**. This condition can occur in those female pets that have not yet been neutered. A simple description of pyometra is an infection of the uterus (womb), however it is a complicated and serious problem that does require urgent treatment.

**What is Pyometra?** The womb fills with infected pus like material. This can be due to various problems such as cysts, a build up of mucus and bacteria inside the uterus, an infection or a hormonal imbalance. Toxins (poison) from the pus inside the womb are released, and enter the blood stream making your pet very ill.

### Symptoms of Pyometra.

If your pet shows any of these signs contact your vet without delay.

**Vaginal Discharge   Loss of Appetite  
Excessive Drinking   Lethargy and Depression  
Vomiting   Swelling of the Abdomen**

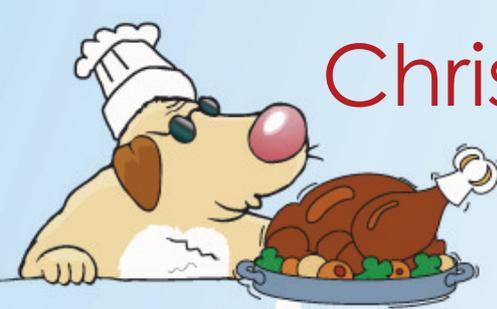
The sooner treatment can begin the better.

**Treatment** If pyometra is suspected, we may take blood tests, x-rays or ultrasound scans to assist us in diagnosing the condition. Once confirmed, treatment can begin, but sometimes a pet is so poorly that an immediate hysterectomy operation is required.

**Neutering your Pet** If you are not planning to allow your pet to have puppies or kittens, then perhaps you should consider having them neutered. Not only will this prevent pyometra, but also other related conditions such as ovarian cysts, mammary tumours, cancer and of course unwanted pregnancies.

**If your pet has not been neutered, we would be happy to fully discuss any concerns you may have, so please do contact us at the surgery.**





# Christmas Chat

## Last Orders Please!

December is such a busy time of year for most people.

With endless lists of food shopping, cooking and present buying in preparation for the festive season, something always gets forgotten! If it's **your pet's long-term medication or food**, then it could cause a real problem for you at a time when the surgery might be closed. So do contact us well in advance of Christmas with your pet's food or medication order, and then you can tick that job off your list, **but do remember to collect it!**

## Weighting for Christmas?

The festive season brings plenty of indulgence in the food department and here at the surgery, we enjoy a big dinner and a second slice of chocolate log just as much as the next person! Christmas also usually means **extra treats and food** for our pets too, but do go easy as obesity in dogs and cats can cause diabetes, heart disease, arthritis and breathing difficulties.



**Winter Wonderland** The colder season is fast approaching, so please remember our beautiful birds and other wildlife that brace the winter elements. They all need some extra help to survive, so feed birds daily during harsh weather. For our prickly hedgehog friends, please do not feed milk as hedgehogs are lactose intolerant. Provide mealworms and special hedgehog food; tinned meat cat food is also suitable. Ensure a good supply of fresh drinking water too for our wildlife.



## Ho Ho Ho and A Kiss Under The Mistletoe!

Ancient druids and Norse Mythology tell stories of this seasonal plant, but the truth is that fresh or dried mistletoe and berries contain substances that are **toxic for your pet**. Poinsettias and holly/berries can also cause problems. If any are ingested, this can cause a range of **signs such as skin, mouth and throat irritation, swelling, excessive drooling, vomiting, lip licking, and diarrhoea**. **Do not delay in contacting your vet for advice.**



## What's Cooking in the Kitchen?

Foods that are prepared in advance of Christmas such as the cake and puddings, require a lot of raisins and sultanas!

Unfortunately, **these and also fresh grapes can be toxic** to dogs and if ingested can cause kidney failure. Store grapes or any foods containing raisins and sultanas (don't forget the mince pies) well out of your pet's reach! **Chocolate** should also be stored carefully, as it contains theobromine, which is toxic to our pets. **Recognise any signs of restlessness, vomiting, diarrhoea, lethargy, stomach pain or reluctance to eat?.....then contact a vet quickly!**

**Turkey Troubles!** It seems to be turkey for dinner for days..... and when you really can't eat another turkey recipe, please do not feed carcass bones to your pets. **When broken they are sharp** and can get lodged in the throat and stomach to cause serious injury.



## Ringworm.....

## Another Wiggly Worm?

Some pet owners hear the word worms, and it can send a shudder down their spine! Wiggly intestinal worms are a parasite problem that can arise in your pets, which needs to be dealt with quickly, better still prevented. However, let us not get confused here as **ringworm**, is not a worm.

Ringworm on your pet is **a type of fungus**, which infects the skin of cats, dogs and even us humans.

## How is ringworm transmitted?

From direct contact with an infected animal, which can also shed fungi spores that are able to survive for long periods of time in the environment. Your pet could catch ringworm from anywhere that an infected animal has been.

## What you should look out for

**A small round bald patch, which may have scaly skin in the middle or small spots.**

**Sometimes this causes irritation for your pet, so watch out for scratching/nibbling.**

## Don't Panic!

Ringworm is fairly easy to diagnose and treat. We can use a special light, which shows the fungus as a glowing fluorescent colour. Alternatively we may take a hair sample from around the infected area to study under a microscope, or gather a little of the scaly skin to enable us to grow a culture. If your pet is diagnosed with ringworm, a suitable course of treatment may be prescribed.

It is a good idea to regularly check your pet's skin and coat for any unusual signs or changes. If you do find something that you would like us to check out, please do not hesitate to contact the surgery for an appointment.



**AVENUES VETERINARY CLINIC**

*Caring for your pets.... as if they are our own*

[www.avenuesvet.co.uk](http://www.avenuesvet.co.uk)

22 Garston Lane  
Watford  
Herts WD25 9QJ  
01923 894274

