

## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Welcome to the Clockhouse Vets winter newsletter. We hope you find it informative.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask a member of our team.

## In this issue:

- Things to consider if you're thinking of getting a puppy
- Our Clockhouse puppy parties
- Antifreeze awareness this winter
- **SPECIAL OFFER on Dental Checks!**
- Paws & Claws monthly pet health plan

## Care Needed When Buying Flea Products!

Following a spate of cat deaths reported by UK vets, International Cat Care (formerly the Feline Advisory Bureau) are warning cat owners not to use dog flea treatments on their cats, as the insecticide permethrin, commonly found in dog spot-on treatments, is highly toxic to cats, with often fatal consequences.

Cats treated with even small amounts of spot-on products containing permethrin, or allowed to groom dogs treated with any of the products in the list below, can develop nervous signs such as depression, drooling, tremors, seizures, vomiting and staggering, and can die.

There is also a risk to cats which come into contact with recently treated dogs if the product is groomed off the dog or rubs off onto the cat. Spot-on flea treatments comprise a small amount of liquid that is applied directly onto the skin of the animal's neck, making them easier to use than traditional powders or sprays which can cause stress to cats.

Permethrin products are safe for dogs, as they are far less sensitive than cats to the toxic insecticide. Cat flea spoton treatments (and many of the newer dog spot-on products) do not contain permethrin. Active ingredients that are safe for both dogs and cats include fipronil, imidacloprid and indoxacarb.

Flea collars for cats may also contain a low concentration permethrin and, on their own, should not cause problems but if the cat is also exposed to other sources of permethrin, they could contribute to poisoning. There are much safer and far more effective flea control methods for cats.



There are warnings on packaging containing permethrin, but they tend to be small and for those who shop without their glasses, or in a hurry, they can easily be missed, so if you have bought any flea products recently, the advice is to check carefully what they contain and if you are ever in doubt, contact us for advice.





# Things to Consider if You're Thinking of Getting a Puppy

It is easy to get carried away with the excitement of getting a puppy, but there's a lot to consider before you make your decision.

The most important consideration is time - dogs are pack animals and need to spend time with their family. Too much time alone can be damaging to a dog or puppy - not to mention your furniture! If they have to be left for longer than a few hours, could a dog walker come and take them out? You need to be able to commit to walking your dog at least twice a day, every single day of the year.

We recommend people take out Pet Insurance to cover any unforeseen costs .

On to the exciting bit! What kind of dog? Rescue adult or puppy? Sadly, there are too many horror stories in the media of irresponsibly rehomed dogs, but to give a rescue dog a good home, is a wonderful thing and well-known charities like RSPCA and The Blue Cross,

are extremely good at making sure the right dog goes to the right home.

If you fancy a puppy, should you have cross-breed or a pure breed? If you are choosing a breed, do your research and keep in mind that 'smaller' does not necessarily mean less exercise - in fact often, the opposite is true!

Puppies from responsible breeders will have good, clean, well equipped and maintained kennels. You should see ALL the pups with the mother and they should appear fit, well and confident, with no discharge from the eyes or nose, or sores on the skin. They should be socialised and treated with flea and worm prevention. For more advice, before and after purchase, come and see us at Clockhouse.

## Our Puppy Parties!

**Here at Clockhouse vets we consider socialising your puppy one of the most important things that you can do for them. Clockhouse puppy parties are geared up for puppies to meet and play with each other and meet with other adults and children.**

Puppies love meeting other puppies and people and it is a very important time for them to learn. Anything positively encountered within their first 14 weeks becomes natural to them. It is a time when they learn to tolerate and enjoy the new experiences which, encountered for the first time later in life, they might find challenging. After this time the window of opportunity closes. An early introduction to all sorts of situations enables them to cope in maturity. If puppies are not properly socialised, they can develop 'fear aggression'.

At our puppy parties the pups have lots of fun playing while owners can ask questions, swap stories and

watch them play. We also introduce different noises and stimuli to show owners how to get the best response from their puppies and train them to be successful family companions.

The parties are FREE and closely controlled by a qualified veterinary nurse - it is not a free-for-all as inappropriate socialisation is as bad as no socialisation.

Call to book in your new puppy. Parties are very popular and we keep to a max. of 5 pups per session - held from 6-7pm Wednesdays in Clockhouse, Stroud and 6-7pm Fridays in Clockhouse, Nailsworth.





# The Importance of Dental Checks for Pets

Caring for your pet's teeth does much more than just help their breath. In fact, it's importance to their overall health cannot be overstated.

Dental disease, if left, leads to infection and bone loss. Animals cannot say they are in pain; instead their behaviour changes, sometimes quite subtly. It takes quite a lot of discomfort for them to stop eating, by which time the dental disease can be quite advanced.

Severe dental disease can lead to heart, liver, kidney and respiratory problems. Advanced dental disease can result in bone destruction, spontaneous fractures of the jaw and severe pain.



## \*\*\* January \*\*\* Special Offer



Clockhouse are offering **FREE** vet dental checks for your pets in January. A fully qualified vet will check the general health of your pet, paying special attention to their teeth and gums (normally £30). If treatment is needed, they will also be able to give you an idea of the likely cost.

*For further advice or to book your dental check appointment, call Clockhouse on 01453 752555 and quote **JANUARY DENTAL OFFER.***

## Antifreeze Danger!

At this time of year, if you drive any kind of motor vehicle, using antifreeze is unavoidable. Unfortunately, the active ingredient, ethylene glycol, tastes sweet, making it incredibly attractive to cats and dogs BUT it is incredibly toxic to them - just a tablespoon of antifreeze is enough to kill a dog and a teaspoonful will kill a cat.

Some companies are now adding a bitter taste to products containing ethylene glycol to make them unappealing to animals. These, clearly labelled, (as all Halfords antifreeze and screenwash products are now) are the preferred option for both pet and child safety.

Accidental poisonings happen every year, so please ensure that antifreeze is kept in clearly labelled, robust, sealed containers, away from pets and their environment and clear up any spills straight away, before any pets have access to the area. Any that you don't intend to use should be taken to the local recycling centre for safe disposal.

No matter how careful you are, accidents can happen. ***If you suspect your pet has come into contact with antifreeze, leaked water coolant or if they show any of the following signs get them straight to a vet:***

- Vomiting
- Appearing drunk and uncoordinated
- Seeming depressed or sleepy
- Seizures (fits)
- Difficulty breathing
- Increased thirst
- Increased urination

Signs of antifreeze poisoning can show as soon as 30 minutes after ingestion, though it can be two or three days before signs of kidney failure are seen. The sooner your pet receives treatment, the better their chances of survival. Left untreated, antifreeze poisoning can cause pain, suffering, distress and ultimately lead to the death of your pet.



## Why neutering your cat is good for them and you.



For a nation of animal lovers, some of us have a strange way of showing how much we care for animals, with shelters reporting a surge of kittens and pregnant cats being left with them and what appears to be a worrying new trend of 'kitten dumping'. Some shelters are having to turn people away as they are unable to take in any more cats and feel people have started to see pets as 'disposable'.

**It costs little to have your cat neutered and it can save them and you from a number of problems - not just unwanted kittens!**

Female cats first come into season and are able to have kittens from around 6 months of age. The feline season is known as 'calling', with very good reason as the cat will roll around on the floor with her bottom in the air, crying as though in pain. This lasts for 3-5 days every 2-3 weeks throughout the breeding season

(early spring to late summer). You are likely to have any male cats from the neighbourhood visit you at this time, often in the middle of the night.

An 'entire' tom cat will tend to roam around the neighbourhood or further afield, spray urine in the house to mark his territory and is more likely to fight with other cats. This increases the risk of him catching, or passing on, several feline diseases, including FIV, the equivalent to human HIV.

Neutering your cat prevents pregnancy as well as this undesirable behaviour and is best done at 5½ to 6 months old, before the onset of puberty. The operation is performed under a general anaesthetic. And your cat will be back to normal within a day or so and you'll only have the cat, or cats, you chose to have.

## PUTTING YOU AND YOUR BEST FRIEND FIRST

Spread the cost of your pet care with easy monthly payments and enjoy a **15% inflation proof discount** over the year for complete peace of mind.

- Routine vaccinations and health check
- Twice yearly health assessment
- 12 months of flea and worm control
- Free microchipping and nail clipping
- Free nurse appointments

**Plus you will also receive these additional member benefits:**

**20% off** t/d dental diets and any non-prescription food

**15% off** veterinary consultation fees, counter sales and other preventative healthcare services including routine neutering

**10% off** prescription diets

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**CLOCKHOUSE**  
VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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

## PAWS&CLAWS

MONTHLY PET HEALTH PLAN

CAT	DOG
<b>£12</b> per month	from <b>£10*</b> per month

\*depending on size and weight, contact us for a more detailed price

