



Welcome to the December edition of The Westport Veterinary Clinic Newsletter!

We've had a busy few months here at Westport. Our new computer system has been installed and is running smoothly. Linlithgow, South Queensferry and Drumbrae branches are now all synced up, which makes all our services much more streamlined!

We have recently been nominated for the Scottish Vet Awards - you may have seen this on our practice Facebook page. We are currently in second place, but would love to win! If you have a moment, we would really appreciate your vote to try and get us into top spot! Thank you to everyone who has voted already!

If you have any feedback on any of the changes you might have encountered at Westport, we would love to hear from you!

In December we will run a 12 days of Christmas competition for your pets! If you would like to enter your pet for the chance to win a treat, just post a photo of them (preferably doing something festive or wintery!!) and their name on our facebook page. Every day, we will draw a photo then tag you on facebook to come and pick up their Christmas treat!



Friends of Westport

Friends of Westport Clients receive all their routine preventative healthcare as part of their plan. This includes vaccines, year round flea and worm control, and a 6 monthly health check. The plan also includes a 10 % discount on in house services and medications, should your pet require them.

Ask at reception if you would like more information.

Some of you may have seen on Facebook that we joined the **#wearitpink** campaign on the 19th of October.

We all dressed in pink, ate pink snacks and lots of our clients pets also dressed up for the occasion for a photo!

Thanks to everyone for their kind donations!!

We managed to raise just under £100 to support the research into beating Breast Cancer.



POISON PATROL

There are lots of tempting things to eat around Christmas time that may not be good for your pet.

Every year we see lots of dogs that have eaten chocolate. We would always recommend a vet visit if your dog has eaten chocolate as we may need to make them sick!

Christmas pudding is another common toxicity because it often contains raisins and sultanas which are very bad for kidney function.

Antifreeze toxicity can be seen at any time over the winter. It is incredibly toxic to cats in particular, but dogs also. This is very serious and often fatal so if you suspect your pet has ingested antifreeze, take them in to see us straight away.

***If you suspect your pet has eaten anything that may make them unwell, then contact us on 01506 844165, (or the out of hours vet) immediately to be seen, or for advice ***



Who's got Tinsallitis??!



Cats love to climb a Christmas Tree - but make sure they don't eat the Tinsel! That can cause a nasty blockage!

For the same reason, watch out for ribbon and packing tape.

Small toys, parts and batteries can cause big problems if swallowed.

Keep an eagle eye on your pets at this time of year!!



Chill...

The practice has started running a staff craft club in our free time as an exercise in mindfulness and wellbeing.

We are also starting a couch to 5K to get us out of bed in the early dark mornings! At least our dogs are enjoying it!



Protect those Paws!

During the winter months the streets and roads are treated with grit and salt.

Although helpful for us humans to avoid slipping when we are out walking, it can cause problems for our pets.

The grit and salt can cause their paws to become sore and irritated.



Signs to look out for include:

- >Licking and biting paws
- >Red irritated skin between toes and pads
- >Noticeable staining on the pets fur due to excessive licking
- >Holding their paws up as they are tender to walk on

In the winter you can try to wash and dry your pets paws after each walk.

If they are really sore you could also try to cover paws with special dog boots . We can order these in for you.

If you are still concerned then we would advise that you bring them to see one of our vets as we can check them over and decide if they require any medication to help relieve their symptoms

Seasonal Stress

Christmas can be a stressful time of year for everyone, including our pets! Upset routines, strange visitors (and not just the big man in the red suit!), different noises, moving furniture - these can all be a source of anxiety to our hairy companions.

Try to ensure a quiet familiar place, out of the way, is available for your pet. You can try Adaptil for dogs and Feliway for cats which are pheromone products designed to help reduce anxiety and keep your pet calm.

Don't forget, after Christmas New Year hits us with a bang (literally)! Another excuse for fireworks - for those pets affected by noise phobias it's not a cause for celebration.

Strategies for general stress will help with fireworks, but you can also try things like Thundershirts, Classical music on the radio, Petremedy, Yucalm and many more remedies.

If you would like further advice please feel free to call the practice and speak to one of our nurses.



THE MASCOTS GALLERY!



Obi

This is Obi, who belongs to Paula our Head Nurse in Linlithgow. He loves his Christmas jumper!



Tuff

Belle

This is Tuff and Belle having a great time in the snow! They belong to Jaynie, one of the vets!



Oreo

This is Oreo, having a gallop in the autumn sun! He belongs to Gillian, one of the vets!



Deetu

This is Deetu, who belongs to Jenny, one of the nurses! Keeping super cosy under that blanket!