



2009—Christmas News from Midforest

Firstly on behalf of everybody at Midforest, may I wish all our clients and their pets a happy, healthy Christmas.

I am sure you noticed that we had a few staff changes this year.

Justyn, Jenny and Katie left Totton, Kate, Elyse and Jenny left Lyndhurst—all moved on to new jobs further afield—then Katie came back—she said she missed us! ... and we still hear from the others who always say how much they miss their Midforest clients (yes, you are unique!) and they send their best wishes to you all.

Becky at Totton has just left on her maternity leave so Christmas for her and Mark promises to be a rather busier one than usual—we just hope their baby is not born in a stable!

Despite the slightly unsettled summer due to people leaving, we are now thrilled that Andy and Charli have joined the veterinary team. They have settled in well and are enjoying meeting all our clients and their pets and they even put up with the rest of us!

I am sure you know how hard the staff work, often under considerable pressure, to provide a consistently high standard of care and “service with a smile”. The staff pride themselves on creating a friendly atmosphere to make you and your pets feel welcome, so I would like to thank everybody for the many lovely cards and presents showing your appreciation for what we do over the year.

We love to hear from you when you feel we provide good service, but I would like to say that if at any time you are not happy with any aspect of your visit or are concerned about your pet's treatment, please do not hesitate to tell us. We will listen and act on your concerns whenever we can.

Anyway, have a fulfilled festive season and a happy New Year.

Clare Richardson—Practice Manager

Christmas Time and Pets

Christmas is a magical time for us humans but it can be pretty bewildering for our pets. Follow our festive advice to make sure this Christmas is full of peace and joy for ALL the family.

Christmas Trees

If you have a real Christmas tree you will be aware that the needles will fall from your tree over time. They are hard and sharp and can easily get stuck in animal paws or throat. Keep animals away from them or frequently clear up the fallen needles.

Decorative Dangers

Cats may show a keen interest towards baubles, tinsel and decorations hanging from your Christmas tree which could result in a nasty accident. Try to use unbreakable baubles, don't use anything too small and make sure your tree is well anchored, so your cat's attentions can't pull the tree over. It is advisable not to hang human chocolate from your Christmas tree as this will be an added temptation for your pet. Human chocolate is potentially life threatening for your pet—it contains theobromine which is dangerous when eaten in large quantities. Baking chocolate has approximately nine times more theobromine than milk chocolate and is particularly dangerous, along with dark chocolate. Holly, mistletoe and yew are poisonous to pets and can be extremely dangerous—so make sure they are well out of reach. If you suspect your dog has eaten chocolate, please contact the vet immediately.

Over Indulgence

Avoid giving your pet bones as they can cause diarrhoea, splinter and get lodged in the throat or rich or unusual food which can cause gastric upsets. A turkey carcass left out on a worktop may be an easy source of sharp bones for a peckish dog or cat. Feeding grapes and raisins is also potentially harmful, so unfortunately Christmas cake and mince pies are off the list.

Prevent Pet Panics

Remember balloons, Christmas crackers, poppers and champagne bottles all go off with loud bangs. Ensure your pet is kept away from these noises to prevent unnecessary panic. Has your dog regularly met all the family members and friends that you might be inviting to your house during the Christmas period? If not, your pet may be a little shy, nervous or apprehensive when meeting people for the first time. If you have young members of the family visiting over Christmas your dog or cat is likely to be more excited than usual. Ensure your pet is always supervised around young children especially when they are play with new toys. Certain toys may be loud or electronically mobile which may excite or scare your pet.

Pet Presents

Make sure your pet's presents are dog or cat proof. Buy them from a reputable pet shop or veterinary clinic. Make sure you avoid giving your pet things that may make them act possessively—especially if children are around. Put your pet in a separate room from the festive mayhem. Choose the furthest room away from the noise and perhaps leave a radio or television on to block out any noises that may startle your pet. Give your pet something of comfort like his bed, scatter some treats or some toys to play with.

And Finally

Don't let these issues worry you too much, as it's easy to avoid most pet related Christmas disasters.

Christmas and New Year Opening Times

Christmas Eve Thurs 24th Dec

Christmas Day Fri 25th Dec

Boxing Day Sat 26th Dec

Sunday 27th Dec

Monday 28th Dec-Bank Hol

Tuesday 29th Dec

Wednesday 30th Dec

Thursday 31st Dec

Friday New Year's Day 1st Jan

Saturday 2nd Jan

Sunday 3rd Jan

Open 0830—1600

Closed—Emergencies Only

Closed—Emergencies Only

Closed—Emergencies Only

Closed—Emergencies Only

Normal Opening Hours

Normal Opening Hours

Normal Opening Hours

Closed—Emergencies Only

Open 0830—12.00 noon

Closed—Emergencies Only

Emergency Telephone Number 023 8028 2358