

Special Offer
Spot-on Cat wormer

Is your cat difficult to worm with a tablet? Have you tried a spot on wormer? Cat worming using a Spot-on is easy because the solution is applied directly onto the cat's skin in a single application. The active ingredients travel to the gut, where intestinal worms are found. Spot on wormers kill every type of intestinal worm commonly found in UK cats.

Buy 3 pipettes and get the 4th one FREE. Offer only available between 30.9.09 and 30.11.09.



DENTAL DISEASE is a welfare issue. "Dog's breath" is the very least of the worries. Oral pain is a feature –but often goes unnoticed because pets carry on eating. As periodontal disease progresses, bacteria spreads from the mouth through the blood stream to affect other organs such as the kidneys and heart valves. In addition little showers of bacteria are carried into the lungs with every breath. It is estimated that 80% of dogs and cats over the age of 3 urgently need dental treat-

ment. Many loving pet owners do not realise the extent of their pet's disease and are unaware of the importance of caring for their pet's teeth.

FREE Pet Smile Check Ups and Goody bags are available at both Lyndhurst and Totton surgeries. Ring to book an appointment.



Repeat prescriptions are available at 24 hours notice. Please speak to reception when you are running low on your pet's medication.

We require all animals that are on repeat medication to come in for a **FREE** six month health check. This comprehensive health check is to assess whether your pet is still in need of the same medication and the same dosage level or whether changes need to be made. Appointments can be made during normal surgery hours.

Pain in Cats

Cats are masters of pain disguise! A cat in pain may:

- ◆ Stop interacting with people
- ◆ Stop eating and/or drinking
- ◆ Sit very still
- ◆ Seem hunched or tense
- ◆ Not lie on their sides or stretch
- ◆ Not groom
- ◆ Show temperament changes
- ◆ Bite, rub or chew at an injury
- ◆ Less commonly, show aggression, vocalisation and inability to settle

Chronic pain is not easy to recognise and can be put down to "old age", but cats may be less active, jump less and be unwilling to go out. Changes in behaviour are important clues.

If you are concerned about your cat showing any of the above signs, then contact either surgery for advice.

FIREWORKS

Household Hazards

How to help dogs overcome fear of fireworks

At least one week before the event

- ◆ Prepare a refuge area for your dog to go during the fireworks
- ◆ Encourage your dog to use it by hiding food treats there
- ◆ Plug a Pheromone Diffuser in the room the dog uses to rest and relax and leave it switched on at all times

On the day of the event

- ◆ At sundown, draw thick curtains or blinds across the windows in the room where the dog will retreat to. Ensure some toys are available for the dog to play with
- ◆ Make sure you have something to do in this room so you can stay with your dog
- ◆ Put some music on, preferably something with a lot of constant drumbeats. It does not have to be loud
- ◆ Ignore the firework noise yourself and try to engage your pet in some form of active game
- ◆ Ignore any fearful behaviour. Don't fuss or attempt to reassure your dog when it is scared as this rewards the behaviour
- ◆ Don't punish the dog either; it only confirms that there was something to be afraid of
- ◆ Make sure the dog is kept in a safe and secure environment at all times
- ◆ Allow free access to the refuge area/hidey hole at all times
- ◆ Pheromone spray can be applied onto the dogs bedding on the night of the event for additional reassurance

After the event

- ◆ Leave the diffuser plugged in for a week
- ◆ If similar events are likely to happen over a number of nights maintain a diffuser throughout the whole period
- ◆ Consult your veterinary surgeon or a qualified behaviourist to discuss further treatment



Keeping our dogs healthy and happy is the primary goal of any pet owner. While most people know that chocolate can be poisonous to dogs, there are other potential toxins lurking within our kitchen cupboards that can cause illness, or worse, in our canine friends.

While the chemical theobromide is responsible for the toxic properties of chocolate, caffeine also contributes to its ill-effects. Caffeine is not well tolerated in dogs and can cause hyperexcitability and stress on the heart. Therefore, coffee, either liquid, instant or beans, tea bags and baked goods containing coffee should be kept away from pets. Fruits and vegetables are not completely harmless either. Grapes, including dried products like raisins and sultanas have been recently found to be quite toxic to dogs with symptoms ranging from vomiting to acute kidney failure and even death. Certain artificial sweeteners have also recently been found to cause severe adverse reactions in dogs. Other products to avoid giving your dog include: macadamia nuts, fatty foods, avocado, onions (especially onion powder) and foods containing alcoholic beverages.



Kitchen bins contain all sorts of potential dangers from cooked bones to tin cans, so please make sure your bin is not accessible to your dog.

In the Garden

Please be aware that certain garden plants are poisonous to dogs. These include Ragwort, Rhododendron, Ivy, Deadly Nightshade, Foxgloves and Oleander. Always keep garden chemicals locked away from dogs even if the manufacturer claims that the contents are unpalatable and contain a "Proven Pet Repellent" e.g. slug pellets.

Should your dog ingest any food or product you are unsure of, please contact your veterinary surgery immediately. Always keep the package if possible so the vet can determine exactly what your has been eaten.