



# Newsletter

Endell Veterinary Group, 49 Endless Street, Salisbury, SP1 3UH • 01722 333291

Winter 2013

## Travelling with your pet

*Now the nights have drawn in and as the weather turns ever colder, many of us are thinking about next year's holiday.*



Since the removal of the requirement for a post-rabies vaccination blood sample in 2012, it is easier than ever to take your pet with you when travelling abroad. For most people this means bringing their dog along on the trip to Europe.

The first thing to do is to spend a little time researching the area you are planning to visit, in case there are any unusual entry requirements and to check what diseases are present in the region that you may need to think about protecting your pet against. In the UK our climate and island location have protected our pets from many diseases which are relatively common in Europe. Many are spread by mosquitoes, sandflies or ticks so use of a good repellent and keeping your pet indoors at dawn and dusk is important. There is now a vaccine available against Leishmaniasis which is spread by sandflies but this needs three injections at three-weekly intervals so needs planning well in advance.

Step one in applying for a PETS passport is making sure your pet has a microchip and that it is reading correctly. As long as they are more than 93 days old they can then have a vaccination against rabies. Once vaccinated your pet can be issued with a PETS passport, this is an official document and expensive to replace so please take as much care with it as you do your own passport. Your pet can then travel 21 days from the date of the rabies vaccine. The USA and most countries in Europe are part of the PET scheme. For more information, see:

<https://www.gov.uk/pet-travel-information-for-pet-owners>



Most pets travel fairly well but it is worth considering some of the anti-anxiety supplements available, especially if the journey is going to be fairly long. You will need to plan regular rest stops and remember, if your pet is a very nervous traveller then they may be happier staying at home, either with a pet sitter or in kennels. Don't forget travel insurance either in case your pet is ill or has an accident while abroad.

Finally, two to five days before re-entering the UK, your pet will need to be treated for tapeworm by a Vet and have this officially recorded in their passport. This is to try and prevent the tapeworm *Echinococcus multilocularis* from establishing in the UK. It is transmissible to humans and can cause serious or fatal liver disease.

### Summary:

1. Research where you are going and think about disease prevention. Come in and chat to a member of staff about the available options.
2. Have your pet microchipped
3. Start the Leishmaniasis vaccine course if needed
4. Have your pet vaccinated against Rabies
5. Wait at least three weeks before travel
6. Consider anti-anxiety supplements
7. Take out travel insurance for your pet
8. Have your pet treated for tapeworm two to five days before re-entering the UK by a Vet.

We would recommend speaking to us at least six months before travel, to ensure everything is in place for a safe and happy trip for your pet. However the process can be done in as little as a three to four weeks in some cases if necessary.

## Farewell to Abi



We are sad to announce that one of our nurses, Abi Rowe, left us in December. Abi completed her training here at Endells and has been a key team member for the last four years. Abi has moved to Essex to be with her boyfriend and is working at a referral hospital there. We wish her all the best in this new chapter in her life and know that she will be more than capable of taking on the challenge of working in a busy small animal hospital. She will certainly be missed here!

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



# Festive Hazards



*It's that time of year again, so here are a few reminders of things to look out for over the festive period....*

## Chocolate

As well as stealing chocolate left out on the side, dogs commonly also get hold of chocolate which has been wrapped and left under the tree or sent through the post. A sufficient quantity of any chocolate is poisonous to dogs but much smaller amounts of dark chocolate will cause problems.

Chocolate contains Theobromine which affects the nervous system and heart. Signs of ingestion include; shaking, hyperactivity, panting, diarrhoea and can progress to seizures.

Avoid giving chocolate as a treat to your pet and keep it somewhere secure, not wrapped under the tree or hanging as decorations.

## Grapes, Raisins and Sultanas

As well as being one of the main ingredients in Christmas cake and pudding, these are also present in many chocolate bars. There is no specific toxic dose as different animals will tolerate different amounts; a very small quantity can cause kidney failure in some animals. Avoid leaving these fruits where your pet can reach them.

## Turkey and the trimmings etc

Also be aware that many Christmas foods are very rich and fatty and can give your pet an upset stomach. Think carefully before giving your pet different food over the Christmas period and keep bins tightly closed.

Remember even the plastic wrapping from the Turkey may appeal to a scavenging dog.

*With a little prior planning, hopefully you should be able to avoid an unnecessary trip to the vet's over the festive period. However if you are concerned that your pet may have encountered any of the above hazards, don't panic. Phone us for advice as many are easily treated if caught early.*

## Poisonous Plants

Poinsettia, Holly and Mistletoe are all common Christmas plants which can cause vomiting and diarrhoea. Make sure they are well out of reach of pets and check regularly for fallen leaves and berries.

## Decorations

Tinsel, baubles and coloured lights may all look like toys to your pet. Make sure they are out of reach and that your pet has plenty of their own toys to entertain them. Many decorations can cause serious problems if swallowed and require expensive surgery to remove. In addition cables to lights will give pets an electric shock causing burns and possible fluid accumulation on the lungs if chewed through. This is especially seen in young, inquisitive pets so take extra care to cover exposed wires.

## Antifreeze

Not a festive hazard as such but the cold weather brings an increase in the number of people topping up the antifreeze in their cars. Please remember to be careful not to leave bottles open and to clean up spillages promptly and thoroughly. Antifreeze (ethylene glycol) is highly toxic to animals and humans and only small amounts need to be ingested to cause a fatal kidney failure. Unfortunately it is sweet tasting and even normally picky cats will lick it off their paws if they have walked through it. Signs of poisoning include vomiting, lethargy, increased urination and seizures. The sooner treatment is received the better the chances of survival.

## Are You A Member of Our Pet Health Plan (ViP Extra) Club Yet?

The Endell Veterinary Group Pet Health Plan offers an easy, cost effective way to meet your pet's essential healthcare needs. We believe that preventative health care is an important part of pet ownership; things like vaccines and parasite control are important factors in helping your pet have a long and healthy life. As well as vaccines, wormers and flea control, the plan provides a six-monthly check up to catch any problems early, something that becomes increasingly important as your pet ages. This is not the same as pet insurance but allows you to save money and spread the cost of preventative health care for your pet and works well in conjunction with a good insurance policy.

### What's included?

For a regular monthly fee your pet receives:

- Twice yearly health assessments
- Full routine annual vaccination
- Full worming program for cats and dogs for effective year round protection against round and tape worm (includes lungworm)
- All year round flea control for cats and dogs
- Parasite program for rabbits for *E cuniculi*
- Annual health screen blood test
- Insurance claim forms completed free of charge

In addition, you get discounts on the following:

- Routine consultations
- Neutering
- Microchips
- Dental treatments
- Additional vaccinations
- Royal Canin and Hill's food



### ViP Club - if you don't want all the "extras":

We also have another Pet Health Club Plan (ViP) that offers full routine annual vaccination, worming and flea control.

## Ordering Food and Medications

We have changed the way we order your pets' medications and food. We have found that holding a lot of stock means that many products go out of date on the shelf. To try and combat this we are ordering most medicines and foods from our wholesaler only as required. In order to save yourself a wasted journey in to the practice, we ask that you please telephone us in advance to give us 48 hours' notice to order your food or medication.



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Endell Veterinary Group Small Animal

