

ARK VETS NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2023

LEND A HELPING HAND TO WILDLIFE THIS WINTER

A British winter can be tough on animals, but there are plenty of things you can do to help.

Birds may find it harder to find their normal food in winter, but you can help them to stay strong by leaving out extra food for them. Never try to use antifreeze or salt to thaw frozen ponds, birdbaths or any water container used by animals.

Badgers don't hibernate, but they do sleep through most of the severe weather. They have a tough time finding their favourite food of earthworms when the ground is frozen.

They'd welcome nibbles such as lightly cooked meats, cheese, peanuts and fruit.

Toxic gases can build up in frozen ponds, killing fish or frogs that may be hiding at the bottom. If you have a pond, check it every day for ice. If the pond does freeze over, carefully place a saucepan of hot water on the surface to melt a hole. Never tip boiling water onto it or break the ice with force, as this can harm fish.

! Important update !

The **RCVS (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons)** the governing body of vets, have updated their protocol with regards to prescription flea and worming products. This is to try and limit environmental impact created by some of these products.

If your pet is on regular prescription flea and worm treatment, then your pet will need to come in for a check before the end of the year to allow you to continue with these products. This also includes all pets that are on our Health Care Plan. If you are due a vaccine for your pet before the end of 2023, we will carry out the check at this appointment.

All those not due a vaccine until the new year, will need to book an appointment if you wish to continue using prescription flea and worming products.

Please contact the practice if you have any queries or are unsure if this applies to your pet.

Reindeer make a unique clicking sound when they walk, and not just when up on a rooftop! The clicking helps the members of a herd stay in contact, especially in snowstorms.

Walking in a winter wonderland....

Winter can be a lovely time for you and your pets with magical walks through the early morning frosts or curled up by a welcome fire. But when the temperature drops it is important to take extra care. We have a few tips to keep your pets happy and healthy during the colder months.

- ◆ If you have an elderly or sickly dog, consider a waterproof coat or jumper and dog boots to keep them warm.
- ◆ Keep your dogs away from ponds and lakes that are iced over—thin ice may break under a dog's weight.
- ◆ If it is snowing outside, watch out for your dogs' paws becoming compacted with snow, this can be very uncomfortable!
- ◆ Be aware that antifreeze and rock salt can be poisonous to pets.
- ◆ Wash paws thoroughly after walking your dog in areas that may have been gritted with rock salt.
- ◆ Stick to well-trodden routes—snow can hide lots of hazards like fallen branches or sharp rocks.
- ◆ Plan ahead—pay attention to the weather forecast and plan some alternative routes if you cannot do your usual walk.

Please remember to check under your car for sleeping cats!

In cold weather, cats may decide to take shelter under your car, including crawling under the bonnet and wheel arches to soak up the warmth from the car engine and tyres.

Before setting off in your car, make sure you tap the bonnet of your car and check around the tyres before you start the engine and drive.



Cosy and calm....

(10% off calming products until 01/01/24!)



Christmas can be stressful for pets. The change in routine, visitors, children, loud music and decorations can all worry them. Planning ahead can help minimise stress for pets and ensure they have a happy home at Christmas too. Here are our top tips for helping your pets have a stress-free Christmas and new year;

- ♦ Stick to their routine—try to keep food, exercise, bed and toilet routines the same, as consistency can help pets feel more secure.
- ♦ Introduce new people carefully—if you have guests coming over, let your dog or cat meet people at their own pace.
- ♦ Give them somewhere cosy and quiet to retreat to, away from all the excitement, where they won't be disturbed by anyone. Leave toys there to help them associate the area with positive experiences.



- ♦ Hiding places—you can give cats hidey-holes to retreat to in case they feel unsure. Try on top of wardrobes or under furniture—even cardboard boxes can make good hiding places.

- ♦ Don't leave them alone too long—although Christmas is a busy time and there's a lot to do and people to see, be careful about leaving your pet alone for too long.



Cost of living crisis

If you are a pet owner, or know of someone who is struggling to cope with the cost of food or healthcare for their furry companion, the RSPCA website has plenty of information, advice and support.

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/costofliving>

Pet care over Christmas

- ♦ Keep the number of an emergency vet on hand (**EVES—01392 284217**) in case of accidents or if your pet eats something they shouldn't.
- ♦ If your pet is on medication, stock up before the holidays so you don't get caught out.



Merry and bright...!

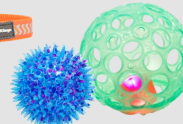
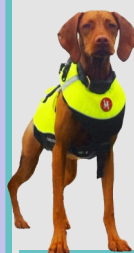
With darker nights and colder days, we want you and your pets to stay safe and warm this winter, so let's get our canine and feline companions kitted up with nighttime safety products!

Make walking safer by ensuring your dog is seen in the dark. Reflective and illuminating items are excellent ways of staying safe this winter.

- ♦ High-vis and reflective coats
- ♦ Light-up toys
- ♦ Blinkers
- ♦ Reflective or flashing leads, harnesses and collars

Worried about your feline friend?

You can also get reflective ID tags and collars for cats.



Crafting for charity

Back by popular demand! This year Kate is making catnip Christmas trees and doggy Santa sacks!

Now available to purchase, **all money raised will be donated to the Rainbow**

Trust Children's Charity (providing emotional and practical support to families who have a child with life-threatening or terminal illness).

A huge thankyou again to all of you that supported my Macmillan fundraiser last year!



ARK
Vets PINHOE



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OPENING HOURS

We are open between
8.30am-6.30pm on Weekdays with
a late night opening to 7pm on Tuesdays
and 8:45am-midday on Saturdays.
Consultations and Nurse Clinics are by appointment.

On Monday to Friday consulting hours are:

- 8.45-10.30am
- 2.30-3.30pm
- 5.00-6.30pm (7pm Tuesdays)

On Saturdays our consulting hours are:

- 9.20-11.00am

Payment is required at the time of treatment

We provide 24 hour emergency cover, just phone the usual

telephone number