



WINTER 2009



It's Christmas!

We hope you are enjoying the festive season, but please make sure your pets are able to enjoy Christmas by being aware of some festive hazards...

There are many common substances found in the home during the Christmas period that may seem innocent but can be very dangerous to pets. These include:

- Raisins and sultanas used to make Christmas cakes and puddings,
- Holly and mistletoe,
- Liquorice and sweets,
- Xylitol-sweetened foods,
- Expanded polystyrene foam and silica gel used in packaging,
- Blu-tack used to put up cards and decorations,
- Car antifreeze,
- Chocolate can be particularly dangerous as it contains the chemical theobromine which has severe side-effects in dogs. The concentration of theobromine is higher in cocoa powder, baking chocolate and dark chocolate. Chocolate poisoning initially causes vomiting, diarrhoea and hyperactivity. Higher levels of theobromine can lead to life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias and seizures.

Festive homes also contain additional hazards for pets such as electrical cables powering Christmas tree lights, which could be very dangerous if chewed, and wrapping and bows from presents.

If your pet has eaten any of these substances then please contact us at the surgery as soon as possible.

Everyone at Trefaldwyn Vets would like to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

