



Lynwood Veterinary Group is pleased to announce that our newly revamped website is now up and running!



If you visit [www.lynwoodvets.co.uk](http://www.lynwoodvets.co.uk), you will find lots of information – not just about all of our branches within Lynwood and the staff who work for us, but also lots of useful factsheets on healthcare aspects for dogs, cats and many of the smaller pets which visit us...



Don't miss the opportunity to visit our brand-new online petshop! The online shop allows our clients to browse through many more items than we are able to keep in stock at our practices, plus your purchases can be delivered to you, saving a journey in the winter gloom – why not check out some potential Christmas presents for your pets and take advantage of the introductory 10% discount?



Our updated site also provides links to other areas of Lynwood's work, such as the Lynwood School of Veterinary Nursing. Based at Poundbury, near Dorchester, LSVN provides high quality tuition to students over four different counties, with more than a hundred students now studying a range of courses



You can also keep up-to-date with news from Lynwood via our Facebook page and our Twitter feed – there are links from the website homepage. But please don't feel that the technology is taking over! Our telephone numbers are listed below and the phone is still the best way to contact us for advice and to make a appointment...



### WIMBORNE

Station Road  
Wimborne  
BH21 1RQ  
Tel; **01202 882101**

### VERWOOD

19 Station Road  
Verwood  
BH31 7PY  
Tel; **01202 826956**

### BOURNEMOUTH

1 Dunbar Road  
Bournemouth  
BH3 7AY  
Tel; **01202 555553**

### WAREHAM

Unit 9, Leanne  
Business Centre  
Wareham, BH20 4DY  
Tel; **01929 552692**

### SWANAGE

87 Ulwell Road  
Swanage  
BH19 1QU  
Tel; **01929 422213**

# Wimborne & Verwood News



## Holiday Hazards

Don't let pets chew on cooked bones (especially poultry bones) as these can splinter and can become lodged in your pet's throat



Place decorations carefully and ensure that they are secure and out of reach of playful pets. Many decorations break easily and sharp fragments are often swallowed. Smaller pets can become entangled. Don't forget to check that electrical cables are secure and out of the way of nibbling teeth!



Potentially toxic Christmas foods include cocoa, chocolate, grapes, raisins, sultanas and onions

Ideally in the winter bringing your smaller pets indoors in a hutch would be the best option but this is not always practical! Make sure your pet's bedding is always topped up; Rabbits and Guinea-pigs often munch through their bedding at night so keeping it topped up is essential. On winter mornings, it is really important to check your pet's water supply; if it is frozen it can take a long time in the day to thaw out and your pet could get very thirsty.



Christmas can be a stressful time for pets – make sure that they have somewhere safe and quiet to retreat to when they prefer to escape the festivities. We also recommend using products such as Adaptil and Feliway to help reassure pets. If you are concerned about your pet becoming stressed, then please don't hesitate to get in touch

Beautiful as they are, some plants may be toxic to pets. Lilies are especially poisonous to cats. Other plants requiring care over the festive season are mistletoe and poinsettias.



Please check under your car before starting the engine to make sure that no animals (usually cats or wildlife!) have taken shelter from the weather – on the subject of cars, make sure you clean up any Antifreeze, Coolant or Windscreen wiper fluid & keep it out of reach of your pets. Many cats and dogs like the sweet smell and taste and, unfortunately, even very small amounts can be lethal to them. Contact your vet immediately if you think your pet may have consumed these products.

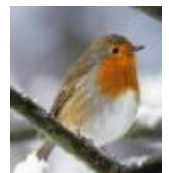


### Garden Birds in Winter

Severe winters can be a real test of survival for many of our feathered friends – did you realise that on a cold winter night, birds can use up to 10% of their bodyweight just to keep warm. As a result, they need to feed well every single day. Prolonged cold spells can lead to a high mortality rate in our more common species such as blue tits, robins and sparrows. With a little help, gardens can be a haven for birds and other wildlife. Ensure a fresh supply of water every day. A bird table stocked up with a high calorie mix will help birds to maintain their fat reserves.

Bird tables should be sited in a safe place, where birds can feed undisturbed – near branches or other perches is ideal; near fences or hedges where crafty cats can lurk is not so good!

For more info, visit [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)



# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



# Wareham & Swanage News



## Happy Christmas from all at the Lynwood vets!

Winter is definitely here, and the cold, dark evenings make everyone want to sit in the warm, including our pets! Walking late at night in the cold isn't very appealing, however both of your waistlines will benefit from this exercise. You need to keep a close eye on your pet's weight during the winter and festivities and bring your pets in for regular weight checks with a nurse if you are at all concerned!

As well as watching your pet's weight, you need to watch out for any signs of joint stiffness. Lameness and difficulty in getting up after resting is often made worse by the cold damp weather.

### Rabbits in winter

Don't forget about your pet rabbits and guinea pigs at this time of the year. It's important that you ensure that their hutches are warm, dry & sheltered from direct wind. They need fresh food every day, and their water bottle needs to be checked to ensure that it hasn't frozen.

### Fleas don't take holidays!

With summer over, it can be tempting to stop treating your pets for fleas over the winter months. However, with modern central heating in most households now, fleas can be very problematic all year round! Adult female fleas can lay in excess of 50 eggs per day, therefore it's easy to see how a house can become overrun with them very quickly! If you think you may have a problem with fleas then please telephone the practice where we can offer you advice.

### Festive hazards...

We all love to treat our pets during Christmas, but you must be very careful what you feed them. Chocolate contains a substance called theobromine which is extremely poisonous to dogs, and the higher the cocoa content the more toxic the chocolate. Grapes, raisins and sultanas can cause renal failure whilst onions can potentially destroy your pet's red blood cells! So if you want to give your pet a special food treat this Christmas then make sure it is specifically for your pet!

### Dangers of Christmas..

1. If you walk your dog in the freezing cold and rain, try and dry him off as soon as possible with some old towels or a hair dryer on a cool setting.
2. Try not to over-excite your pets; "small furies" and birds get very stressed in noisy, smoky rooms.
3. Don't leave your pet unsupervised with a new toy; not all toys are robust and you don't want them to swallow anything.
4. If you have a fish pond, float a football on the surface. If the pond freezes you can remove it and this will ensure your fish will have enough oxygen.
5. Be careful where you place your Christmas tree and what decorations you use. Cats love 'pawing' at dangling objects so ensure you place your most expensive baubles near the top of the tree. Tinsel is also irresistible to cats so ensure this isn't left dangling near the bottom of the tree, if accidentally swallowed it may lead to a blockage and could require surgical removal.
6. Try to avoid giving your pets any tidbits from your Christmas dinner! This can lead to upset stomachs which aren't nice for anybody involved.
7. Never buy a pet as a present; this is too stressful a time to introduce a new pet so if your family is serious about obtaining one, then wait until after the festivities.

# Dunbar News

## Winter check list:

Try to exercise your dogs during daylight hours during the winter months. Where this is not possible it is wise to consider lead exercise, reflective or glowing collars and coats for your pet and carrying a torch



Take care if ponds or lakes are frozen. Every year there are newspaper stories of dogs falling through ice into freezing water. Worse still owners are risking their own lives trying to rescue their pet. Be safe and keep your dog on the lead when close to ponds and lakes. Carefully break the ice on your garden pond to avoid accidents in the garden. This will also allow oxygen to reach the fish and creatures below.

Consider a dog coat especially for any dogs with a thin, fine coat. When your pet has been out in the snow or when the temperature is below freezing, make sure that you dry your pet with a towel or a hairdryer on a low setting. Please avoid leaving your pet in a car on a cold day as there is a risk of hypothermia.



If your cat is spending more time indoors during the winter months avoid weight gain by introducing toys and games to stimulate them mentally and physically. We do encourage you to have your pet's weight checked regularly to prevent any weight changes becoming an issue.

It is also wise to watch your pet's movement. If you notice signs of any stiffness, lameness or reluctance to exercise seek the advice of your vet.

Don't forget your small pets. They are especially susceptible to temperature changes. Rabbits and guinea pigs will benefit from extra insulation around their hutches. Check that they have access to a water source that is not frozen.



You may wish to consider moving the hutch indoors or to a car free garage. Make sure the hutch is dry and well ventilated and that you provide access to extra bedding materials during cold periods.

The festive season is approaching and it is important to remember that a variety of things associated with the season are potentially dangerous to our pets.

It is wise to not give titbits or offer foods to your pet that they are not used too. Upset tummies are not nice for your pet or you.

Some foods are especially dangerous...



**CHOCOLATE** - We all love it and there is plenty around over the holidays. Please remember that your pet has a better sense of smell than we do and a wrapped box under the tree may be discovered and eaten by your pet!

Chocolate contains Theobromine which is TOXIC. It becomes more toxic the higher the cocoa content. If you suspect your pet has ingested chocolate contact a veterinary surgeon immediately.

**GRAPES and RAISINS** - These are potentially poisonous to your pet. Remember items such as Christmas cake and mince pies contain quantities of raisins.



**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS** - Select these with care as they are most attractive to our inquisitive pets. Avoid glass baubles as they are easily shattered. Always make sure all decorations are well attached to the tree. Keep mistletoe berries well out of reach as they are poisonous. Remember that many of decorative items if chewed and eaten can cause serious health issues even resulting in surgery for your pet.



**CHRISTMAS PLANTS** - Beautiful as they are, plants may be toxic to pets. Lilies are especially poisonous to cats. Other plants requiring care over the festive season are mistletoe and poinsettias.

**Everyone at Lynwood Veterinary Group wishes you a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year**

**Thank you for choosing our practice. We look forward to caring for your pets in 2012**