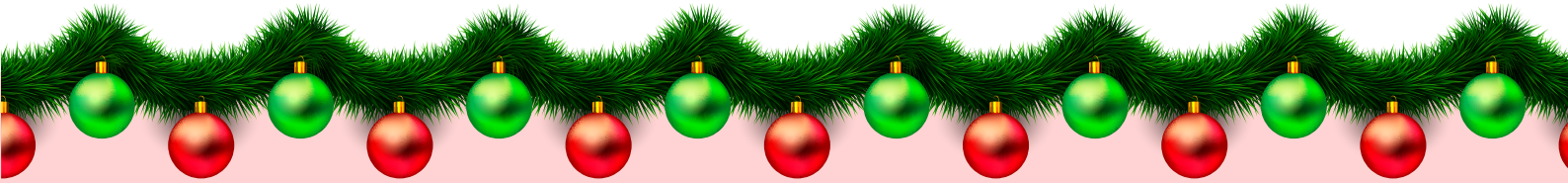


Welcome to our Summer Newsletter.

Merry Christmas! Welcome to our Summer newsletter. We hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather and looking forward to a wonderful Christmas and New Year with friends and family. Let's not forget our furry friends and family! This newsletter with focus on some helpful "Do's" and "Don'ts" to keep your pet safe and happy during this merry season!

A reminder that our clinic will be closed from 2pm on Christmas Eve, returning Tuesday 4th of January. If you require emergency veterinary care during this period, please contact one of the local emergency clinics for help. The Dandenong Animal Emergency Centre is located on Princes Hwy, Tele: 1300 385 874.



How to have a fun and happy Christmas and New Year with your pet:

Presents

- Everyone loves presents, and your pet is no exception! Surprise them with toys, pet friendly treats, fun boxes for cats to hide in, and quality time with the family!

Play time and Toys

- During the celebrations ensure your dog has plenty of toys to keep them occupied and having fun, this will help to distract from the dangerous goodies all around! Don't forget to include your dog in games and socialisation so they feel part of the fun!



Safe space

- Even the most social of animals needs some quiet time occasionally, provide a nice quiet place away from the action that your pet can retreat to if they need to recharge their social batteries.



Keeping cool when Hot

- Allow your pet inside with air conditioning/fans
- Kiddy pools with a small amount of water to lay/splash in
- Ice blocks with a treat inside to lick
- Do not exercise in the hottest part of the day
- Ensure shady places if outside to cool
- Lots of water to drink!

Special Treats

- Try making homemade Christmas treats for your dog! Try this yummy recipe your dog will love!

DOGGIE CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Ingredients:

- 3 cups plain wholemeal flour
- 1/2 cup mashed pumpkin or sweet potato (optional)
- 1/2 cup grated carrot, liquid squeezed out
- 1/4 cup natural 100% peanut butter
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 tsp of ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- Optional:** Carob drops

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 180 degrees
2. Line your baking tray with baking paper
3. Combine all ingredients (other than carob) in a bowl until a dough forms.
4. Roll out dough onto a floured surface until approx. 1cm thick.
5. Use your favourite Christmas or doggie themed cookie cutters to cut out your cookies. (If you don't have any cookie cutters can cut into squares or diamonds with a knife)
6. Bake in the oven for 30 minutes or until cooked through



OPTIONAL: For an added touch, dip or drizzle biscuits in melted carob!

CHRISTMAS PHOTO COMPETITION

Kitty Kringle? Santa Paws?

We'd love to see you pets dressed in their Christmas best!

We are running a Christmas photo competition where the best Pet Christmas Photo will win a pet friendly Christmas goodie bag worth \$100 or 4 Movie tickets and their photo will be published in our next newsletter!

Judging will be by vote of our lovely Vets and Nurses.

Please email your photo at reception@hallamvet.com.au, or post to our facebook page with the hashtag #HVCxmas by the **19th of December**.

One entry per pet, Winner will be chosen on the 20th of December so they can collect their prize before Christmas!

We are excited to see your creative creations!



CHRISTMAS NO-NO'S FOR PETS:

There are many foods and decorations we love to have at Christmas and New Year, but many can be very harmful, or even deadly to your pet. Here is a list of common Dangers to avoid to keep your pet safe and healthy!

If you notice your pet has eaten something toxic or shows any of the signs described above, please contact your local or emergency veterinarians.

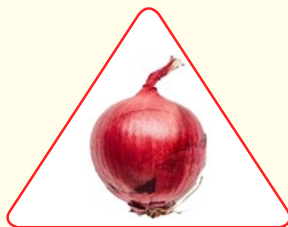
Chocolate

The compounds in chocolate are very toxic to dogs and cats! It can make them agitated and jittery, their hearts race dangerously fast, and can even cause seizures. So please keep out of reach and don't keep wrapped chocolate under the Christmas tree!



Onion and garlic

Compounds in onion, garlic, leeks and chives cause damage to red blood cells leading to severe anaemia, so the blood cannot carry enough oxygen around the body to function. Signs include lethargy, pale or yellow gums and fast or difficult breathing.



Alcohol

Cats and dogs are extremely sensitive to alcohol toxicity and even small amounts can cause death. So please keep your glasses and open bottles out of reach!



Macadamia nuts

For dogs, eating macadamia nuts can cause lameness, pain and weakness in the hindlegs, vomiting, shaking, and bowel obstructions.



Grapes and sultanas

Grapes, sultanas and raisins can be very toxic to some dogs, causing kidney injuries which can be life threatening. So no sneaky Christmas pudding or mince pies!



Fatty foods

Ingestion of a high fat meal such as sausages, pork crackling, turkey skin, or ham fat can lead to a serious condition called Pancreatitis. Signs of this include lethargy, abdominal



pain, vomiting, fever, poor appetite. So don't leave your BBQ unattended, make sure you've got good lids on your bins, and ask guests not to feed scraps to your pet!

Decorations

Many cats and dogs love to play with decorations, but this can include swallowing ornaments that can cause obstructions, chewing through Christmas light cables causing burns, and even swallowing tinsel which can cause a dangerous accordion like effect in the intestines. If your pet seems to be very interested in your Christmas tree, consider putting up a barrier or puppy fencing around your tree.



Fireworks

One of the biggest nights of the year for escaping dogs is New Years Eve, you'll be surprised how far a dog can jump when scared! Fireworks can be very distressing, If your pet gets frightened of loud noises there are a few things you can do to make the night easier:

- o Allow your pet to be inside with you for comfort, or have someone pet-sit
- o ensure your fencing is secure
- o Talk to your veterinarian for medicinal help for your pet to avoid distress.
- o Have your pet wear a collar and contact details, so in case they do escape it is easier for them to be returned to you!



Heatstroke

Dogs and cats can't sweat to cool down, the most they can do is pant. Breeds of dogs with short noses, such as pugs and bulldogs, have more trouble panting effectively to regulate their body temperature, and can lead to heat stroke. Cats with flat faces, long/thick coats and overweight cats are also prone to heatstroke. Signs include excessive panting, agitation, vomiting, diarrhoea, weakness and collapse.





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