

Spring 2023

The Belmont Vets Times



Practice News

What's been happening at Belmont Vets 🥰

Welcome to our new part-time receptionist **Natasha** who started with us in February. Say hello next time you are in as Tash is looking forward to meeting all our lovely clients and patients.

Kirsty Stewart will begin her veterinary nurse training in April and we wish her lots of luck with her studies.

Wellness Screening is now available for eligible cats & dogs. Wellness Screening is recommended in healthy adult cats and dogs to aid early detection of disease.

Come and join us on **Friday 31st March** and throughout the weekend at the **Queens Woof Walk** at Queens Wood.

Belmont Vets Ltd

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Opening Hours

Monday - Friday 8.00am-6.30pm

Saturday 8.30am-12.30pm

Saturday afternoon appointments available to book 1.00pm-5.00pm

Sunday CLOSED

Phones lines answered from 8.30am

Spring Hazards

Plants

Spring is a time of new beginnings and the promise of new life, but it can also present challenges to our furry friends. The garden is a wonderful space for our animals to play and spend time in, but we must be mindful of the plants and bulbs we plant at this time of year. Snowdrops, tulips, crocuses and daffodils are just a few of the flowers to avoid. The bulbs are toxic to pets, as are the actual flowers which can cause vomiting and gastrointestinal upset when eaten or just chewed. Some bulbs may also cause a choking hazard, especially in smaller dogs and cats.

In the garden

Fungi tend to grow in the Autumn, but will still be around in the Spring, and can cause gastrointestinal upset as well as behavioural changes. Some are really quite deadly, and will potentially cause liver and kidney damage, which is not always apparent straight away. New growth can also include weeds that we try to deter using weed or moss killer. As well as fertilisers we might have added to our new planting, these chemicals can also cause gastrointestinal upset, skin irritation as well as potential liver failure.

Easter Time

This is a fun, family, food orientated time, but the Easter treats that we enjoy are not suitable for pets. Chocolate eggs are prevalent in most households, but theobromine, the chemical in cocoa, can be lethal, even in small quantities, by causing convulsions and heart problems. Simnel cake and hot cross buns are also eaten at this time of year, they contain dried fruit, which can cause kidney failure.

Flystrike in rabbits

As the months begin to get warmer flystrike can become an issue. Although mainly seen in rabbits it can affect any animals. It happens when flies lay their eggs on your rabbit, and those eggs hatch out into maggots. They can eat into your rabbit's flesh within 24 hours which can cause death in a very short time. It is important to check your rabbit's bottom every day and more than once during the warmer months. More tips can be found here <https://rabbitwelfare.co.uk/rabbit-health/illness/flystrike/>

Adder bites

In March and April, if it is mild, adders will appear out of hibernation. If provoked, they will bite, resulting in swelling, pain and even shock.

Spring is a wonderful time of year to get out and about with our furry friends but it is important to be aware of the potential hazards. If you are concerned your pet has been exposed to a toxin please contact your vet practice immediately and bring any relevant packaging information with you.

