

Winter 2022

# The Belmont Vets Times



## Practice News

### What's been happening at Belmont Vets 😊

We are pleased to have our vet **Georgia** back at the practice after her 10 month long sabbatical. Georgia is such an asset to Belmont Vets, willing to pitch in and help wherever she can and is ever cheerful.

**Welcome** to our new full-time receptionist **Jane**. Say hello next time you are in as Jane is looking forward to meeting all our lovely clients and patients.

**Congratulations** to **Emmie** on passing the coursework for the Cert AVP just the dreaded exam to follow.

And also **Congratulations** to **Kirsty Stewart** on passing her Level 2 Diploma for Veterinary Nursing Assistants

**Belmont Vets Ltd**

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**Hereford**

**HR2 7JS**

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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

# Winter Tips for Pet Owners



## Keep Your Pets Warm

### Dogs

All dogs will appreciate a warm winter coat or jumper. For some, especially smaller or shorthaired breeds, older dogs or young puppies, a winter coat is a necessity. Remember, just as you wouldn't want to go out there in only a t-shirt – your dog doesn't want to go out wearing only their fur! They may also need to acclimatise to the cold weather, so when heading out in the cold, it's a good idea to gradually increase the time they spend outside.

### Cats

If your cat is outside for most of the day, make sure they have a warm, dry and draft-free place to shelter or consider a cat flap so they can come in and out as they please. Cats sometimes sleep beneath car bonnets during winter, so it's worth checking you have no extra passengers on board before setting off in the morning!

### Check your rabbits' hutch is nice and warm

Rabbits and guinea pigs are particularly susceptible to cold weather as they lose heat very quickly. To prevent this, make sure their hutch is nice and warm, well insulated, in a draft-free position with plenty of dry bedding (shredded paper is brilliant) and that there's no damp.

Water bottles can freeze overnight in extreme conditions; you can prevent this by insulating the bottle with bubble wrap. During really cold periods, you should think about bringing your bunnies indoors where it's nice and cosy.

### Antifreeze poisoning in cats – it's a real threat

Cats and dogs love the taste of antifreeze but it is highly dangerous to them. If you use antifreeze or de-icer to defrost your car windows, take care to avoid spilling any and be sure to clean it up thoroughly if you do. It's also worth storing your antifreeze somewhere that is off limits to your pet and disposing of it safely and responsibly. Antifreeze poisoning in cats is a serious condition. Ingestion can cause vomiting, seizures, depression, difficulty breathing, a lack of coordination and even death – these symptoms can appear in just 30 minutes. So if you think your cat might have had access to antifreeze, contact your vet immediately.

### Protect your dog's paws

Be mindful of salt, grit and snow on the roads, try to avoid letting your dog walk through too much of it and check their paws after a walk. Snow can compact between their toes, which can be painful, and salt can irritate paws and cause harm if licked. A thorough wash and dry of your dog's feet will help make sure nothing is lodged between their toes; it will also stop your dog ingesting any salt if they try to clean their feet themselves.

