

A big part of the forthcoming festive season is that wonderful and scrumptious side ..... the food! For our pets though, there is no special time for food, as dinner is probably the highlight of their day, whatever the time of year, but are you feeding your furry friend the correct diet?

So Many to Choose Yes, it can all be rather confusing! Is this one right for my dog? What are those green bits in it? Will my cat like the jelly? Dry or wet food? Carbs, minerals, proteins, fats, vitamins.....help!

The most important point is to ensure your pet is fed a **balanced diet** that suits their age, breed, size and any medical conditions. This will help keep your pet active, healthy and maintain a correct weight, while still containing the vital nutrients needed.

### What do we mean by a balanced

diet? This is a correct mix of **nutrients** in the food to suit a pet's individual requirements.

What is a nutrient? It is an element in food that is of good value in the diet.

Carbohydrates are great for energy, but for those pets prone to gaining extra kilos, too much may prove a rather weighty issue. Foods lower in magnesium may benefit cats with urinary problems, and if your dog suffers from an allergy condition, after a thorough examination, it might be found that a dietary change could be the answer. Weight loss, diarrhoea, low energy levels and obesity are just a few signs that may indicate your pet's diet is incorrect, however there are other conditions that can display these signs, so it is always best for your pet to have a check-up.

# Food Glorious Food!



Treats Well we all like giving those to our pets, and providing there are no medical conditions prohibiting treats from their diet, it is usually okay, **BUT** these should always be of good quality and included as part of their daily quantity of food.



There are many shops and supermarkets selling an array of treats from bones to chews, and some may be imported from abroad. Please be very careful with your choice, as there have been reports of pets becoming seriously ill after eating certain treats, and sadly some cases have been fatal.

Prescription diets are available for many types of medical conditions, also for age, breed and size, so for more information just give our team a call so they can help you 'balance' your pet's diet.

### GLAVE SURGERY HOURS

We are open for pet healthcare and advice during the hours of

Holf 01263 713200 Monday to Friday 8.30am - 6pm Saturday 9am - 12 noon Wells 01328 711022

Monday to Friday 9am - 12noon 3pm - 6pm Consultations with our Veterinary Surgeons and Nurses are by appointment

### **24 HOUR 7 DAY EMERGENCY SERVICE** 01263 713200

See over for our Christmas **Opening Hours** 



You can find out more about the familiar faces who care for your pets by visiting our new website! You will also find plenty of

information on our facilities, where we are, opening times and much more. You can even order your medication, food or send us a message. Browse through our pages at your leisure, and take a walk-through tour of the surgery to see the excellent services and veterinary care we provide for your much-loved pets. If you have any queries, comments or suggestions on what you would like to access on our website, please do not hesitate to contact us.

www.alavenvets.com

While there follow the link to our Facebook page. There are plenty of brilliant and cute animal pictures for you to browse through, along with updates of the happenings and offers at our practice. Feel free to post a review, your pet pictures or any amusing animal stories you may have, because we would love to hear from you.

Perhaps if we're very lucky, you will 🖞 Like our facebook page! Happy browsina!



It's a busy and fun time for all, but please spare a few minutes to take note of our helpful reminders for pet happy festivities!

> AKE sure your dog is on a lead when walking close to frozen ponds and rivers.



**XERCISE** pets regularly over the festive season, it's part of their routine healthcare.

**OCKETS** and fireworks can cause some pets much distress, but we have plenty of help and advice.

ECHARGEABLE and regular batteries are extremely dangerous if chewed or swallowed by your pet.

OUR fairy lights are very pretty, but watch out for pets chewing at wires and plugs.

**HOCOLATE** contains theobromine, which is poisonous to dogs and cats. Store it out of their reach.

**ELP** our feathered friends in winter. Keep the wild bird table topped up.

**EMIND** visiting guests who are on medication to store it carefully. While you eat your turkey dinner, your pet could be munching Aunt Ethel's pills!

F your pet falls ill when the surgery is closed, call our emergency service.

**UPERVISE** all pets near open fires and log burners.

**URKEY** carcass bones are sharp when broken and can get lodged in the throat and stomach. Please do not feed them to your pet!

INCE PIES contain raisins, which can be toxic to dogs if ingested

.....grapes too. **NTIFREEZE** for cars tastes sweet to pets, but is potentially fatal if swallowed. Please clear away any spills and don't let your pet drink from puddles.

MALL PETS living outside require extra warm dry bedding, regular checks and unfrozen drinking water. Ensure hutches are rain and draught proof.



### Lost Cats

Vets nationwide are reporting on the huge number of missing cats noted in their 'lost' books at reception desks. III and injured cats are being found on our streets, mostly with no identification. Cats can sometimes stray too far from home or become accidentally shut in sheds or garages. Just crossing the road is risky, so it would be great if all the worried owners could be contacted easily and quickly. The big message is.... microchip your cat! It's a simple and permanent means of identification. If a cat is taken to a vet or rescue centre they will scan for a microchip, so call your vet for a microchip appointment now! Existing chip?....then ensure those contact details are current and correct!

### Carrie Cat



Extraordinaire

### Cat Flu

Has your cat had their 'flu' jab yet? Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis and Feline Calicivirus are two types of cat flu and any signs of excessive sneezing, runny nose, sore eyes or discharge then a visit to the vet is needed. Better still protect your cat by vaccinating against cat flu.

### Sweet Poison!

Warnings have been issued that the artificial sweetener **xylitol** could be poisonous to animals if ingested. Some cakes, sweets and biscuits may contain this, so please ensure these edible goods are stored out of your pet's reach.

#### Order Early

For some the festive plans are underway, so just a reminder that if your pet requires medication or other pet supplies over the holiday season, please do order well in advance. The surgery and our suppliers' opening hours vary during this period, so please call us with your order to ensure a full cupboard before Christmas Eve!

## Christmas Hours 2018

Monday 24th Christmas Eve Tuesday 25th Christmas Day Wednesday 26th Boxing Day Thursday 27th December Friday 28th December Saturday 29th December Sunday 30th December Monday 31st New Years Eve Tuesday 1st New Years Day Wednesday 2nd January

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find us on facebook

We hope you enjoy our newsletter and find the information helpful, however it should not be used as an alternative to professional veterinary care. If you have any concerns regarding your pets' health please contact your surgery.

GLAVEN

Holt