

# The Clock Ticks By....

Winter  2021/22



Practice life has certainly been very busy during 2021 and has given us many challenges! Winter is now ahead, so it's time for cosy, cuddly evenings with our pets and warm coats on walks. Your pets are our number one priority and we always work towards helping them live healthier and longer lives.

There is so much we can do to help your pets enjoy a good quality of life during each life-stage. A combination of preventative healthcare, a good diet, regular exercise, and the ever-increasing advancement of medical care now available, means that your pets are living much longer than in the past.

**One Step Ahead** Young, middle-aged or old, there will be constant yet subtle changes in your pet's physical condition. You may see a little weight gain or incontinence, but others are not visible like sore joints, failing eyesight, loss of hearing, and organs such as the heart, kidneys, liver or thyroid glands may not work as well as they used to. Don't wait for your pet to show signs of illness; be prepared by being one step ahead. Have a chat with our team, as they can best advise about tests and changes you can make to accommodate your pet's ageing process, especially as they enter the senior and geriatric stage.

**Regular health and blood checks** can help identify problems in their early stages.

**Examinations** to check out the condition of their teeth, skin, weight, eyes and ears.

**Simple blood & urine tests** help identify diabetes, hyperthyroidism, arthritis or how well their organs are functioning.



If results show your pet is developing a condition, we can discuss the many forms of treatment that modern veterinary medicine now provides. Not all conditions can be cured, but lifestyle changes or medication may help to improve your pets' quality of life.

**Eating** is probably one of your pet's favourite pastimes, but.....

- ✓ **Is it right for your pet?**
- ✓ **Will it suit their age or any medical conditions?**
- ✓ **Is your pet allergic to any ingredient?**

It is important that what your pet eats suits their needs, so book an appointment with us to discuss which food would best benefit your cat or dog to help keep them healthy and maintain a good weight.

Our pets give us so much pleasure and love throughout their lives, and ask for very little in return.

Being loved, hugs, walks, food and a comfy bed, are probably all their hearts desire, but we can do so much more. Whatever age your pet is, be aware of their different needs as the clock ticks by to help them enjoy an even better life!



## Danger.... Chocolate!



Oh my.... with winter and the festive season, there's going to be plenty of this around! We have covered the dangers of chocolate before, but there are always new pet owners out there that are unaware of just how serious chocolate poisoning can be, should their dog eat chocolate in any form.

**Chocolate is toxic to dogs** as it contains **theobromine**, which their systems do not easily break down.

The effects of chocolate poisoning will differ depending on -  
quantity ~ when it was eaten  
type ~ size/weight of your dog.

If you see or even suspect your pet has eaten chocolate no matter how little, **please immediately contact your vet** for advice. The quicker action is taken the better the outcome. When you call and if possible, please have the following information ready....

1. When and how much chocolate was eaten.
2. What type e.g. dark, milk, cake, hot chocolate powder, biscuits etc.
3. Packaging for content information.

**Symptoms of Chocolate Poisoning**  
**Vomiting - Diarrhoea - Drooling**  
**Increased Thirst - Seizures - Collapse**  
**Muscle Tremors or Twitching**  
**Agitation - Increased Heart Rate**

- ✗ **Never feed your dog chocolate.** ✗ **Never leave chocolate lying around.**
- ✗ **Never think a little will be ok.** ✗ **Ensure all household members especially children are aware.**
- ✗ **Chocolate and any foods containing this need to be stored well out of your pet's reach.**

## Hours

The Veterinary Hospital  
**Hungerford**

01488 683999

Mon to Fri 8am - 6pm  
Sat 8.30am - 12.30pm

Belmont Veterinary Clinic  
**Pewsey**

01672 563413

Mon to Fri 8.30am - 6pm

24/7 Emergency  
01488 683999

[www.hungerfordvets.co.uk](http://www.hungerfordvets.co.uk)

## Flea & Worm Treatment ordering made easy

We are very pleased to announce that you can now simply order your pet's flea and worming products online! It's easy, quick and works the same way as ordering repeat medication. Just log on to our website [www.hungerfordvets.co.uk](http://www.hungerfordvets.co.uk), use the **online repeat prescription order form**, and we will text you when your flea and worming products are ready to collect from reception. Not only is this easier for you, but it will also help keep our telephone lines more available for you to make your pets appointments.

## Staff in the Spotlight

Meet Veterinary Surgeon **Emma Holt** BVetMed PgCertSAECC MRCVS our newest member of the team who we sat down in the spotlight seat and quick fired her a few questions!

**Emma.....where and when did you qualify?**  
I qualified from the Royal Veterinary College in 2010 and since then have been working in first opinion and Out of Hours practices in the Berkshire area.

**So what do you feel is the best part of being a vet?** Well the best just has to be seeing pets reunited with their owners once well again and working with a great team who help make this happen.

**What was your first ever pet?**  
Fish and Chips the goldfish!

**Tell us one thing from your bucket list**  
To go on a trip across South America and see Machu Picchu.

**What is your all time favourite drink?**  
Anything with bubbles!

**....and your favourite snack?**  
I love all food, but my favourite snack is pickled onion monster munch!

**Finally what is the pet you would most like to own?**

I already own her.....

Maude  
(my dog)  
she's the best!



"Hello" said Arnold "I hope I'm not too late  
Because I have an order that just can't wait  
My food cupboard well it's looking rather low  
So I'm calling to ensure there's a constant flow

Of my special diet over the long festive season  
So you see vet my call has a very good reason

The cat also says about his long-term medication  
That he needs enough to cover the vacation".



Remember to  
place your  
pets' food and  
medication  
orders before  
the holidays!

## Keep your Chips Hot!

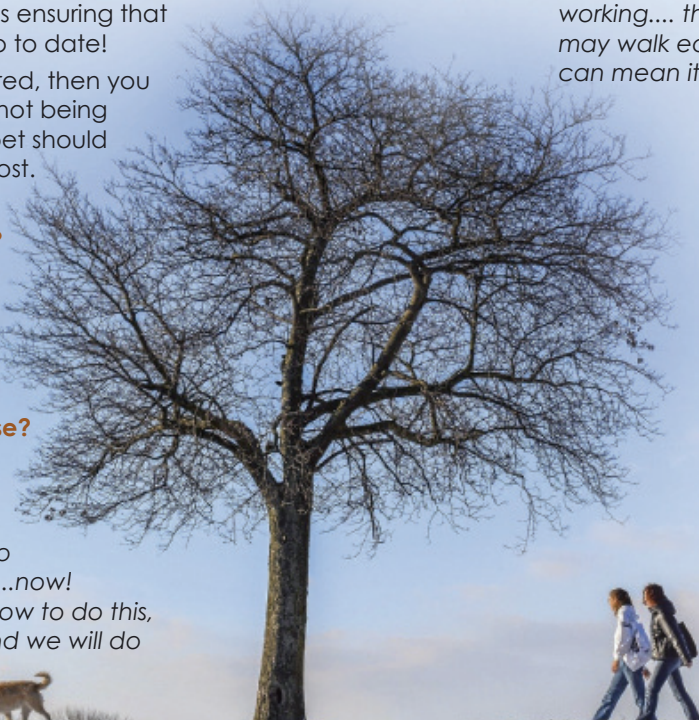
Hot chips are just the best when you are hungry, but these are not the only 'chips' that need to be at their best to hit the spot. The microchips that identify your pets need to be hot too, and that means ensuring that all the details are up to date!

If old details are stored, then you sadly run the risk of not being reunited with your pet should he or she become lost.

Have you

- ☛ moved recently?
- ☛ changed email address or phone numbers?
- ☛ updated these details on the national database?

It only takes a short time to amend and keep your pet's record piping hot, so check all is correct....now!  
If you are not sure how to do this, just give us a call and we will do our best to help.



## Wintry Walkies!

There's a little chill in the air now, so you may need to wrap up more for the daily dog walk, but it's certainly good to have some fresh air and get those leg muscles working.... the four and two-legged kind! Some of you may walk early morning and others late afternoon, which can mean it might be rather dusky as the sun rises or sets. It is important that you and your dog are visible, so to help keep you safe, consider reflective clothing for you both. Should your pet be having a run around off lead whether in the countryside or town park, there are also lighted collars and harnesses to help you and others see your dog in darker conditions. Even on an early winter afternoon visibility can be very poor, so an 'illuminated' pet is a real bonus!

On your wintry walks remember -

- ☼ **When walking past frozen ponds or rivers to keep your dog on the lead as their weight could cause the ice to break.**
- ☼ **Salt and grit on icy pavements are an irritant to paws, so ensure you give all four paws a good wash on returning home.**
- ☼ **Antifreeze for cars tastes sweet to pets, but is potentially fatal if swallowed. Please don't let your pet drink from puddles.**



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4 Bath Road  
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**01488 683999 24/7 Emergency**  
Belmont Veterinary Clinic  
Salisbury Rd Business Park  
**Pewsey SN9 5PZ**  
**01672 563413**

