



BEWARE Lungworm!

Most pet owners know how important it is to regularly treat their pet for parasitic worms. All types of worms are a health risk to your pet, and in some cases humans too, so please do ensure that your pet is covered.

Lungworm (*Angiostrongylus Vasorum*) is a particularly nasty parasite that can make your dog seriously ill, and very sadly in some cases if left untreated, can be fatal. If infected, lungworm lives in the heart and blood vessels that supply the lungs. Take a look to the right to see how this parasite could infect your pets. Perhaps they are snail eaters or sniff around in grass? Even feeding bowls and toys that are in the garden can have infected snail trails.

Common symptoms of lungworm infections are:

- coughing ● rapid/difficulty breathing ● weight loss
- loss of appetite ● lethargy ● pale gums ● seizures
- vomiting and/or diarrhoea ● bleeding problems

If you notice any of the above, please bring your pet in for a check up without delay.



Holly/berries are also toxic, so either avoid having holly and mistletoe in your home, or keep these plants well out of reach of cats and dogs!

If you notice any of the following signs or suspect ingestion of either plant, please contact your vet immediately.

Excessive Drooling - Vomiting - Diarrhoea - Stomach Pain - Seizures

Poinsettias can also cause problems, but the level of toxicity is milder. However, extra care is required if these plants are in your home.

The white sap found in Poinsettias irritates the skin, mouth and throat, causing redness, itching and swelling. Puppies, kittens, and smaller breeds are more at risk, as their size and the amount of plant ingested will determine the seriousness of poisoning.

If ingested it may cause: vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling and lip licking.

Again, always contact your vet immediately if your pet shows any of these signs.



Reduce the spread of lungworm

- Maintain regular worming treatments.
- Clean up and correctly dispose of your dog's poo from the garden and on walks.
- Minimise pets contact with snails and slugs.
- **Before use**, thoroughly wash toys, water and food bowls that have been in the garden.

If you are unsure of what preventative treatments to use and how often, please ask for advice from our friendly team.

*****PLEASE REMEMBER*****

Slug pellets placed in your garden are highly toxic, and can be fatal to dogs and other pets if eaten.

A Kiss Under the Mistletoe

Ancient Druids and Norse Mythology tell mystical stories of this seasonal plant, but unfortunately the truth for your pet...it is poisonous!

Mistletoe and berries, fresh or dried, contain substances that are toxic.

If ingested, this can cause severe intestinal upset, a sudden drop in blood pressure and breathing difficulties.

Sadly in some cases this can be fatal.



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

Staff in the Spotlight

We welcome to new veterinary surgeons to our team
Annie O'Grady and **Rosanna Moss**
Hi Annie....what was your first pet?
My big cuddly ginger cat called Tommy.

.....and what pet would you most like to own?
A sea turtle..... if only they didn't need the sea.

Where and when did you qualify?
I qualified in 2022 from Liverpool University having done much of my placement around the Hungerford and Marlborough area, including this practice! Now a permanent team member here, I consult and do surgery at both the Hungerford and Belmont practice.

Tell us an item from your bucket list.
Oh I would love to dive with Manta rays in Nusa Penida, Bali.

Everyone has a favourite snack so what's yours?
Crisps and every flavour!

.....your favourite drink which is...? *Coffee!*

Hello Rosana! What do you find is the best part of your job?
Well that just has to be when a pet comes in looking very poorly, is treated, and then returns the next day looking much perkier!

From where did you qualify?
University of Bristol.

Give us an item from your bucket list.
Sky diving across the Great Wall of China!

Wow.....and after that experience you might need your favourite drink which is....?
A glass of gin & tonic.

Favourite snack?
Brownies- you can never have too much chocolate!

What was your first ever pet?
I had two stray cats called Ginger and Missy.

Finally.....what pet you would most like to own?
Red panda



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!

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



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

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

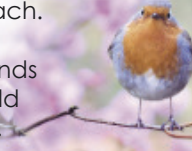
RECHARGEABLE and regular batteries are extremely dangerous if chewed or swallowed by your pet.



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

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

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



REMIND 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!

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

SUPERVISE all pets near open fires and log burners.

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

MINCE PIES contain raisins, which can be toxic to dogs if ingestedgrapes too.



ANTIFREEZE 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.

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



The Veterinary Hospital
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Hungerford RG17 OHE
01488 683999 24/7 Emergency

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