



The Twelve Risks of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas please don't feed to me,
any chocolate treats as they will poison me
On the second day of Christmas please don't let me climb,
or chew the Christmas tree
On the third day of Christmas please don't let me eat,
any poinsettia or lilies as they will make me poorly
On the fourth day of Christmas please hide from me,
anything with dried fruit as it will poison me
On the fifth day of Christmas please don't let me play,
with the tinsel as it may choke me
On the sixth day of Christmas please don't let me eat,
any types of onion not even the gravy
On the seventh day of Christmas please kiss me under the mistletoe,
but keep the plant away from me
On the eighth day of Christmas please don't let me eat,
any nuts as they will poison me
On the ninth day of Christmas have some Christmas cheer,
but I am not allowed so please do not share
On the tenth day of Christmas open all your presents with joy,
remember I may choke on the small pieces left upon the floor
On the eleventh day of Christmas eat all the dinner you can,
But no leftovers as they can upset my tum
On the twelfth day of Christmas celebrate in style,
please remember the noise may not make me smile
Have fun this festive season but please keep your pets safe.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all at Ikin and Oxenham



Antifreeze Poisoning in Cats

The active ingredient in antifreeze is ethylene glycol and is very poisonous to cats. Popular in its use to prevent freezing during the winter it is commonly found in garages and on driveways. If incorrectly stored or left out after draining a car radiator, it attracts cats to drink it.

Ethylene glycol is broken down by the liver during which produces other chemicals that damage the cat's kidneys. About half an hour after ingesting the ethylene glycol, the cat shows signs of sickness, weakness and a wobbly gait. Treatment needs to be administered immediately as any kidney damage is irreparable.

To prevent ethylene glycol poisoning, make sure you store any products safely away from animals and children. If a car radiator has been drained ensure that any cats do not have access. If there is any on your cat's feet ensure they are washed thoroughly.

If you have any concerns, please contact the Veterinary Practice.

Pet Bunnies in Winter

As the weather gets colder it is essential that pet bunnies in outside accommodation are kept warm. Ensure they have plenty of warm bedding and fresh food. Rabbits should be checked at least twice daily to ensure that bedding is clean and dry and water bowls or bottles have not frozen. It is also advisable to place a microwavable heat pad in your rabbit's sleeping area. An example of one of these is the Snugglesafe.

Spot-on insecticide treatments on Dogs

Active ingredients in a number of spot-on flea and tick treatments are toxic to invertebrates. Recent veterinary studies have shown these products enter rivers from dogs swimming after spot-on treatments are applied and can damage the ecosystem.

Advice is to keep dogs out of water for several months from the last spot-on treatment application and start using the tablet form. Therefore, as a practice we will concentrate on using oral treatments where possible.

Sidmouth.

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