

Ikin & Oxenham Sidmouth Veterinary Centre

Thank You

We would like to thank our clients for their continued loyalty and to wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year. From everybody here at Ikin & Oxenham.

Arthritis

Look out for limps and difficulties in rising after rest. These are signs that your pet may have joint stiffness often made worse by colder weather. If your pet is showing any signs of limping or stiffness you should contact us. We have medication to make them feel more comfortable.

Warning

Antifreeze poisoning is one of the most common forms of poisoning in small animals. Our pets can ingest it when the antifreeze drips from a car's radiator and is then licked off the ground. It is the toxin ethylene glycol that makes antifreeze lethal. Cats and dogs will consume vast quantities before being repulsed by its taste. Less than 3 ounces (88ml) of antifreeze is sufficient to poison a medium sized dog and it affects the brain, liver and kidneys.

Common signs of antifreeze poisoning are a drunken behaviour, wobbly uncoordinated movement, nausea/vomiting, excessive urination, diarrhoea, a rapid heartbeat, depression, weakness and seizures/convulsions/shaking tremors.

Winter Weather Hazards for Pets

With the cold weather now here, the winter months can be a dangerous time for your dog. There are many hazards about at this time of year with snow, ice and ice melting chemical on the ground. Your pet can still enjoy the winter months as long as you follow a few precautions.

With the nights getting darker earlier many of us are finding we are now walking our dogs at low light, you may want to consider a fluorescent jacket and/or collar. You could also attach a flashing b'seen light to their collar to make it easier to see them. We recommend you ensure your dog has an identification tag on their collar and that all microchip details are up to date, these increase the chances of being reunited with your pet should they go missing.

The days are becoming progressively colder so make sure your pet is warm. Older, thinner and smaller animals tend to feel the cold more so keep them indoors and when out walking you may want to use a pet jacket. With older, thinner cats make sure they are kept in at night as this is when the temperature really drops.

We could get a few really cold snaps at times and although it's great to get out and about with your dog it's best to keep a regular check on your dog's feet. Ice and snow can ball up in the spaces between the toes causing discomfort. Salt and other chemicals used to grit the roads and pavements can be irritable to your pet's pads, especially if they have any small abrasions, so we would advise that when you get home from a walk you wipe your dog's feet with warm water.

With lots of water about make sure that your pet doesn't go swimming at this time of year. The water is much colder at the moment and a lot of ponds/lakes are beginning to freeze over. Hypothermia is a condition that our pets can and do suffer from when faced with an extreme decrease in temperature which can be caused by swimming in such cold waters. If your dog has a tendency to drink a lot from puddles/ponds etc. when out walking we would advise you take a water bottle out with you as drinking very cold water will affect the body's core temperature potentially leading to hypothermia.

Contact Us

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