



Pets Are For Life!!!!

It's coming up to the time of year when people start to think about adding a pet to their family or maybe buying someone else a pet as a Christmas gift.

It is very important that you do not make this decision lightly. In the New Year, rescue shelters across the country are swamped with pets that owners have given up on simply because that cute little fluffy thing has turned into a not so cute, pooing, peeing, chewing, scratching, biting, time consuming, expensive not so little fluffy thing!

When making the decision, ask yourself some questions. Do you have the time for a pet? Things like training, grooming, playing games with and exercising can take up a lot of time. A pet isn't just something that can be given attention when you feel like it, they need stability and routine. Can I afford to take on a pet? Taking into



consideration veterinary fees? Even routine treatment like neutering and vaccinations can be costly.

Owning a pet is a big commitment, dogs and cats can live to between 15 and 18 years, you are going to be responsible for their health and wellbeing for all of their lives.

If you are thinking about buying someone a pet as a gift, make sure that person is willing to take it on and that they will take all the above into consideration too. Perhaps it's not such a good idea to surprise someone with a pet!

Having said all of this, if you do decide a pet is for you, think about taking in a rescue pet and giving them a second chance. There are plenty to choose from around the country. You will find that rescue centres will not rehome pets at Christmas and will ask you to go through a process to ensure you chose the right one.

Festive Hazards!



The festive season brings with it a huge range of hazards for our pets! Items such as ribbon and tinsel are very attractive to mischievous pets and, if swallowed, may lead to intestinal blockage. Whilst on the subject of edible items don't forget that chocolate can be very toxic to dogs, also, there are several reports that grapes, raisins and sultanas can cause major problems with dogs.

Many pets also like chewing houseplants, however many of these are also toxic to pets. Remember to keep mistletoe away from them as the leaves and berries, if eaten, are extremely dangerous to our pets. Lastly, resist the temptation to overfeed your pet over the festive season. We know that our pets are like part of the family and we like to include them in our celebrations but this may result in gastro intestinal upsets and an unhappy pet!

Milbemax Wormer
Currently on Special Offer
4 for the price of 3

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www.powisvets.co.uk

Behaviour Tip

Staff News

We would like to welcome **Ceri Tupper** BVSc. MRCVS, to the practice. Ceri graduated from Liverpool University this year and we are hoping she will become a valuable member of our team and be happy working here with us in the Black Country.

Carole Stewart, our Practice Administrator and a Nursing Assistant, has just passed her Think Dog! Certificate, a unique and applied foundation in the subject of dog training and behaviour. She is now working towards the next level, Think Dog! Intermediate to increase her knowledge and understanding in the subject. She has also completed a continuing professional development course in an introduction to cat behaviour.

Christmas Opening Hours

Saturday 24th December: **10am – 12pm**

Christmas Day: **Closed**

Boxing Day: **Closed**

Tuesday 27th December: **Closed**

Wednesday 29th December to

Friday 30th December: **Open as usual**

Saturday 31st December: **10am – 12pm**

New Years Day: **Closed**

Monday 2nd January 2012: **Closed**

Tuesday 3rd January onwards:

Open as usual

We have a 24 hour emergency service provided through Vets now, if you have an emergency and we are closed, please call 01384 372849.

19 Audnam
Wordsley
Stourbridge
West Midlands DY8 4AJ
T: 01384 372849
W: www.powisvets.co.uk

Nothing is as important as socialisation for young animals. It means letting your pets meet people and other animals from as young an age as possible and throughout their lives.

A lot of pet owners think they only need to concentrate on this when young, but in order to keep your pet well balanced, socialising should be key in their daily routine. They need positive experiences with lots of different sights and sounds. Lack of socialisation can cause problem behaviour and certain medical conditions.

Looking After Your Elderly Cat

Cats age remarkably well, we are often asked to age a cat that has been taken in as a stray and it can be very difficult!!! They are considered middle aged at the age of 7 and elderly at around 10. However, a cat of 15 years old could still be out and about bringing you the odd mouse as a gift but then happily snooze on your lap for the rest of the day!!

However, there are a few things you need to consider with your elderly cat.

Firstly, with old age comes less mobility, this can lead to weight gain and problems with grooming as well as not being able to jump on and off higher surfaces. Think about changing to a diet suitable for senior cats if your cat is putting on weight. Help him out with his grooming by purchasing something like a glove groomer, then when he is sat on your lap, you can stroke and groom him at the same time.

Give him access to his favourite spots, like a window sill, with the aid of a chair or something similar to help him get there.

Also, you may find that your elderly cats claws get longer than they used to, this will be because he may be unable to claw at things (like your sofa!) to keep his nails trim. They will need to be checked and clipped more often to make sure they do not start to curl and go into the pads which can be very painful.

Elderly cats can be more prone to diseases such as arthritis or diabetes but they are also excellent at not showing signs of illness until they are really poorly. Some things to look out for are:

- Drinking more than usual.
- Eating more but losing weight.
- Not eating at all.
- Difficulty jumping on and off things.
- Smelly breath.
- Problems with going to the toilet.
- Any unusual lumps and bumps.
- Signs of being disorientated.
- Sudden changes in behaviour.

If you have any concerns with an elderly cat or would just like to book him in for a check over, please telephone the surgery.

