



Small Animal Newsletter - Winter 2019

Welcome to North Park Vets! We are a proudly independent mixed practice near beautiful Dartmoor with species specific vets caring for all your animal needs.

Read on to find out what we're up to this winter!

OPENING TIMES

North Tawton

Mon – Fri 08:30 – 18:00
Sat 09:00 – 13:00

North Park Vets,
64 Fore St,
North Tawton,
EX20 2DT

Okehampton

Mon – Fri 08:30 – 18:00
Sat 09:00 – 13:00

North Park Vets,
Unit 1, Cranmere Rd,
Exeter Rd Ind Est,
Okehampton,
EX20 1UE

Hatherleigh

Mon – Fri 08:30 – 17:30
Sat CLOSED

North Park Vets,
The Bridge,
Hatherleigh,
EX20 3JA

Not so tasty treats...

Q: What do all these delicious Christmas goodies have in common?



A: They can all be very harmful to your pets!

Raisins and grapes – can cause acute kidney failure. The toxic dose for pets is unknown so even eating a tiny amount can have devastating consequences.

Chocolate – especially dark chocolate as this has the highest concentration of theobromine, the toxic substance. If your pet eats chocolate it is important to note exactly how much and what type so we can calculate the exact dose they ingested.

Roast dinners – you may think your pet deserves a delicious treat (after all it is Christmas!) but this rich human food is very high in fat and can cause severe tummy upsets in our furry friends. This can be a very painful condition which requires intensive supportive treatment, so definitely best avoided!

Welcome Mary and Harriet!

This Autumn saw the arrival of our two new small animal vets, Mary and Harriet.

Mary graduated in 2018 from St Georges University in sunny Grenada. She worked for a year in a mixed practice in Norfolk before seeing sense and moving to beautiful Devon! Mary is working with both small and farm animals and is looking forward to getting to know all our clients here at North Park.

Harriet graduated in 2019 from the Royal Veterinary College in London and after two months travelling in New Zealand and Australia settled down in Devon. She is looking forward to the variety that mixed practice brings and getting to know the area!

I am sure you will join us in making them feel very welcome.

HERO PET AWARD

Stewart the Deerhound presented to our Out of Hours service in August very distressed and unable to urinate. His bladder was very large and needed to be relieved immediately so vet Ben decided to pass a urinary catheter.

After a long series of investigations it was discovered Stewart was producing very unusual urinary crystals which caused his bladder to become blocked.

He is now doing so much better and is back to his normal self! You can read more about Stewart on our Facebook page.

Rabies vaccinations and Brexit

Are you thinking of taking your pet abroad in the next year? As the current situation regarding Brexit is so unsure it is wise to plan ahead in the event of a no deal.



Currently the only requirement for taking pets to the EU is for them to be **microchipped** and **vaccinated against rabies 3 weeks before travel**.

It is likely from the end of January that it will take **4 months** to set up a new passport before travel. The vaccination must be followed by a **blood test** no less than **30 days** later. If the test is successful, your pet can travel no earlier than **3 months** after the blood test.

If your pet's rabies vaccination is kept up to date every 3 years they will be covered for life and not require another blood test.

Santa's coming!

If you are worrying about your pets feeling left out this holiday season, why not treat them to a special gift or two?

KONG toys are perfect for dogs who love their food and need to be kept occupied. You can pick these up from any of our branches.

It is important to keep your dogs fit and active over the festive season and take them for regular exercise. It is a great way to bring the family together (and burn off those Christmas chocolates!)

If your cats are intent on destroying your Christmas decorations why not keep them entertained with a catnip toy? You can buy these from most pet retailers.



'Tis the season...

As the evenings draw closer it is important not to forget our smaller furry friends! If you keep rabbits or guinea pigs outdoors it is best to bring them indoors, or into a garage or shed, for the colder weather. If this isn't possible move the hutch to the most sheltered place, facing away from the wind.

You may also need to make changes to the hutch, for example extra bedding, and placing a tarpaulin over the roof if there are any leaks.



Don't forget to enter our Christmas photo competition! Take a Christmassy photo of your pet for the chance to feature as our cover photo and win some Christmas treats. Full details on the Facebook page.

