

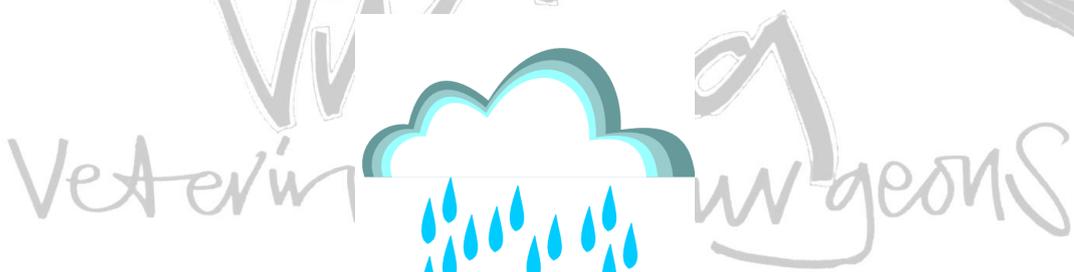
VIKING NEWSLETTER

NEW YEAR EDITION 2017

IN THIS EDITION:

LATEST GOSSIP

THE YEAR AHEAD AT VIKING
GRAPES AND RAISINS TOXICITY



CHEVENING, STAFFORDSHIRE
BS10 7JL

HENBURY, BRISTOL
BS18 8JL



Latest gossip



We are very pleased to announce that we recently passed the RCVS practice standards scheme. This is a voluntary scheme and aims to promote and maintain the highest standards of veterinary care.

A big thank you to everyone who brought us cards, chocolates and biscuits over Christmas, we were extremely spoilt by our lovely clients! This should keep us going for the next 12 months!

Thank you to all of you who gave food donations for Greyhound Rescue and Bristol & Wales Cat Rescue. It is great to see such generosity for charities at this time of year. We managed to raise £70 in the Christmas raffle which was donated to the Cinnamon Trust. Congratulations to the Winner of the 1st prize Christmas raffle, which was a lovely bespoke hamper. Second prize was a Bailey's hamper and the third prize was a free booster. Congratulations to all our raffle winners.



Well done to Andy for completing the Movember challenge and thank you to everyone who made a donation. He raised an amazing £183 and all proceeds were split between a men's health charity and The Great Oaks Dean Hospice, which helped look after our beloved colleague Carolyn.

UPDATE FOR RABBIT OWNERS: Recently in the UK and Europe a new strain of Viral Haemorrhagic Disease (VHD) has emerged which is causing disease and death in rabbits. This has caused great concern amongst rabbit breeders, pet owners and vets in the UK. It is important to be aware that the current recommended combined Myxomatosis and VHD vaccine is still providing essential protection but is not able to provide good protection against this new strain of VHD. A new vaccine manufactured in France has been shown to provide protection against the new strain of disease and can be used in addition to our current vaccination. Viking Vets is now able to offer this additional vaccination for your pet rabbit. Please contact us on 01179505888 or email thevets@vikingvets.com for further information or to book your appointment.

BS107QQ · Tel: 01179505888

THE YEAR AHEAD AT VIKING VETS

Each month we host a different campaign to highlight the essentials of pet care. A new display is created for the waiting room with information and we run offers on certain products during these campaigns. Below is what we will be raising awareness on this year.

January - Weight Watchers

February - Parasites

March - Introducing Senior Health Plans

April - All Things Bunny

May - Pet Travel: The Risks

June - Vaccine Amnesty

July - Body and Mind

August - Feline Facts

September - Dental Month

October - Firework advice

November - Neutering

December - Viking Through The Year

Look out for details of each campaign and any offers relating to the topic on our reception notice board

CHEVENING, STATION ROAD, CHEVENING, BRISTOL
BS10 5888



Grapes and Raisins – What's all the fuss about?

The first thing to say is that we don't know how or why grapes and raisins cause a problem for dogs if they

are eaten, but we certainly do know that for some animals they can cause life-threatening illness. There is a lot of variability in the response of our pets to eating grapes and raisins, one dog may eat a whole punnet of grapes with no problems whatsoever whereas another may hoover up a single grape or small breakfast bar with traces of raisins and suffer life-threatening kidney problems. Again, we are not sure what causes this variability but it may be that some dogs are more sensitive than others or that not all grapes contain the toxin. It is more likely for a pet to suffer serious side effects when the dried form of the fruit is ingested.

Regardless, the message we give to all of our clients is that if your dog has eaten any grapes, raisins or products containing either of these, you should always take it seriously and bring your pet to see us as soon as possible. It's important to remember that this applies to all types of grapes, raisins, sultanas, currants and products which contain them such as cereal bars, snacks, Christmas cake/pudding and chocolate raisins.

The signs of toxicity tend to be seen between 6 and 24 hours after eating the grape/raisin and you might notice these as vomiting (may contain blood), diarrhoea (may contain blood), drooling, lack of appetite, weakness/tiredness, staggering/stumbling, increased amount of drinking and then ultimately kidney failure, which can be fatal.

When your pet is presented to us with known or potential exposure to grapes/raisins, we will give them a thorough examination and get a good account of what happened from yourselves. We then usually do the following:

- 1) We ask that you please do not try and make your pet sick at home with salt water, soda crystals or other products. This can be very dangerous and potentially just worsen the situation further. Just keep monitoring your pet and get them to us as soon as possible.
- 2) If they are brought to us within two hours of having eaten the grape/raisin, we start the process of trying to rid the body of toxins before they are absorbed. We use an injection called apomorphine to make them very nauseous and vomit in order to empty to stomach. After this we give activated charcoal to absorb any toxins in the gut and stop any further absorption.
- 3) We place a catheter into one of their veins to allow us to provide fluid therapy to prevent development of kidney failure.
- 4) We keep monitoring them for any further development of signs and give them lots of love and supportive care whilst they are with us to get them on the road to recovery.

The prognosis is usually good if we can catch them early before the kidneys are affected and if we get rid of the toxins and provide fluid therapy. However, if there is a time delay and there has been some damage to the kidneys, the prognosis for these cases is more guarded. This is why we urge you to bring your pets to us if you are at all worried, especially during this time of year when grape and raisin products are more common.

