



VIKING NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS 2016

IN THIS EDITION:

LATEST GOSSIP

KEEPING YOUR PETS SAFE AT CHRISTMAS

VIKING THROUGH THE YEAR

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

Veterinary Surgeons

CHEVENING, ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE, WINDSOR, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, BRISTOL



Latest
Christmas

gossip
Opening



Hours

Sat 24th Dec – CLOSED
Sun 25th Dec – CLOSED
Mon 26th Dec – CLOSED
Tues 27th Dec – CLOSED
Weds 28th Dec – 8am – 6.30pm
Thurs 29th Dec – 8am – 6.30pm
Fri 30th Dec – 8am – 6.30pm

Sat 31st Dec – 8.30am – 12pm
Sun 1st Jan – CLOSED
Mon 2nd Jan – CLOSED
Tues 3rd Jan – 8am – 6.30pm
Weds 4th Jan – 8am – 6.30pm
Thurs 5th Jan – 8am – 6.30pm
Fri 6th Jan – 8am – 6.30pm
Sat 7th Jan – 8.30am – 12pm

We would like to welcome several new members of staff to the Viking Team. We have welcomed Sonia onto the reception team. Sonia has 2 boxers called Lily and Floyd, and 2 mini jack russells called Peaches and Olly which keep her busy in her spare time. She also knits for a local dog and cat kennels and enjoys reading. Emily joined us in July as a student veterinary nurse and began her training in September. Emily has a German Shepherd called Jes and enjoys horse riding in her spare time. She has previously worked as a veterinary receptionist and a veterinary care assistant so has settled in well at Viking. Lucy also joined us in September as student veterinary nurse from Bristol University. She will be with us for the following six months whilst she completes her training. She speaks fluent Welsh, enjoys arts and plays the harp. She also has a pet tortoise called Rocky. In August we welcomed Andy to the team, a veterinary surgeon, and he will be job sharing with his wife Amy. Andy grew up in Dubai and graduated from the University of Bristol in 2008. He has a keen interest in surgery, particularly "keyhole" surgery. In his spare time he enjoys spoiling his daughter Elia and practicing Brazilian Jiu Jitsu/ submission grappling. We also welcomed Louise to the team as insurance administrator. Louise has previously studied at Bristol University gaining a zoology degree. She will be working part time to work her way through all of the insurance claims! When she's not busy at work she is looking after her 13 month old son Archie and her cat Portia.

We would like to congratulate Amy and Andy on the exciting news that they are expecting their second child! We would also like to congratulate Jeri and her partner who are expecting their first child. We wish them all the best at this exciting time.

In October Viking Vets sponsored the Book swap. This is an annual event organised by the book club Women Words Wine and is free to attend! The event raised an amazing £542 for St. Peter Hospice from cake sales and donations.





Keeping Your Pets Safe At Christmas

With all the excitement of Christmas just around the corner we thought we should give you some helpful tips for keeping your pets safe this festive season.

- ❖ **GIFTS:** wrapped gifts on display may cause problems for inquisitive pets, especially if any of the wrapping is ingested. It is also important to consider the contents of the gifts- toiletries are likely to be toxic if ingested and edible gifts can cause problems for your pet's digestive tract! To avoid health risks keep gifts out of temptations way.

FESTIVE FOOD AND DRINK: At this festive time we often have our families with us but it is important to remind your guests to be mindful with leaving food and drink in areas your pet may find them as it can upset their digestive system and cause fatal problems. Common Christmas food that are harmful include: **Grapes, raisins, currants and sultanas, chocolate, onions, garlic and leeks, macadamia nuts and bones.**

- ❖ **DECORATIONS:**

Christmas tree

If you have a real Christmas tree the pine sap can be toxic to your pet. Some trees are also treated with fire retardant or pesticides. Your pet could also drink water from the stand if it is exposed- this may contain pine sap, fertilisers or bacteria from being stagnant. Other potential problems can include pine needles getting stuck in their feet or ingesting a foreign body.

Seasonal Plants

Many of the traditional Christmas plants can be irritable to pets. Poinsettias can irritate the mouth and stomach while holly and some types of ivy are toxic. Mistletoe can have a toxic effect on the cardiovascular system. Apple twigs and pine cones can provide alternative decorations and are safe for rabbits.

Other Decorations

Make sure Christmas lights are kept out of reach to avoid electric shock and burns. Be careful when using tinsel as it can cause an internal blockage if ingested. Candles should also be kept out of reach to avoid being knocked over and causing your pet harm.

- ❖ **OUTDOOR PETS (BUNNIES AND GUINEA- PIGS):** It is important to protect your outdoor pets from the winter weather. They can tolerate cold weather to a certain extent but it is important to regularly check that their living space is not damp or draughty and that their water bottle does not freeze. Old duvets can be placed over hutches and runs to help provide insulation during these cold periods. If they are vulnerable (old or unwell) or the temperature really drops then you may have to consider bringing them indoors, ideally in a shed or garage as central heating can make it difficult for your pets when they are moved back outside.



With all this in mind, we wish you a safe and happy Christmas with your pets!



Viking Through the Year

2016 has been a busy year at Viking with new staff joining the team, introducing the new pet health scheme and attending lots of events!

We have welcomed several new members of staff to the Viking team this year. On the nursing team we have welcomed two student veterinary nurses- Jeri and Emily. Both have settled in well and are kept very busy with all their training! Laura and Sonia have joined us as our full time receptionists- enjoying keeping pets and clients entertained during their visits. Louise has joined us as insurance administrator on a part time basis. And finally we have welcomed husband and wife- Andy and Amy, onto the veterinary team. All are thriving in their new job roles and have settled in well. Veterinary nurse Jo has also been welcomed back to work after her maternity leave. She has settled back into her role amazingly well.



We were sad to say goodbye to James after working with him for 6 years! James has been a fantastic tribute to the team and will be missed by staff, clients and pets! We wish James every happiness in his future. Katie, our receptionist, also left us in April in order to pursue her dream career working in wildlife filmography. We wish them both the best of luck!

Vicki has been busy working towards the advanced practitioner status in veterinary ophthalmology and passed the course with flying colours! Congratulations Vicky!

In March we introduced the Viking Vets Health Plan to help you spread the payment for vaccinations, flea and worm treatment as well as providing additional discounts! The Health Plan is designed to help you budget for these essential costs by paying in monthly instalments. In addition to spreading the cost it allows us to offer the parasite control at a reduced price, which means that overall you pay less per year than if you were not on the plan.

In March and September we also ran a special 'Dental Month' offer. This offered pets the opportunity to have a dental scale and polish (as advised by the veterinary surgeon) for a reduced price. It was an extremely popular offer and we hope to be running the campaign again next year!

In April the Viking Vets team visited the Bristol and Wales Cat Rehoming Show. It was a great opportunity to speak to the public about our feline-friendly facilities and see Bristol and Wales cat rescue in action!! This was held at Frenchay Village hall and is a fantastic opportunity to find cats potential new forever homes. The Viking Vets team was on hand to give advice to new owners and held a raffle to raise money for this fantastic charity.





Meet Esmeralda! This little kitten was brought into us after being found at a recycling centre with an injured foot. The kitten was extremely nervous and not used to being handled so the nursing team helped to boost her confidence by getting her used to being stroked, handled and played with! She had surgery to repair her toe and needed regular dressings until it healed. Esmeralda is now a fighting fit kitten who has settled happily into her forever home with our nurse Charlotte.

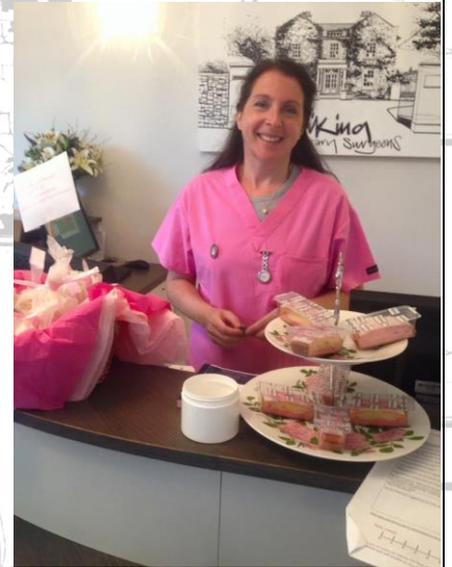
Maria has been keeping herself busy attending a mixture of dog shows this year. In January, she attended DAWGS dog show and helped with the judging. She also helped to judge the FOSS dog show in August, which was held at the Avon Riding Centre for the disabled. She is pleased to be a part in helping these events and charities and will most likely be attending a few more next year!

In October Viking Vets sponsored the Book swap. This is an annual event organised by the book club Women Words Wine and is free to attend! The event raised an amazing £542 for St. Peter Hospice from cake sale and donations.

All the Viking staff donned their pink scrubs for 'Pink Week' in October. This year staff members took it in turn to bake cakes that matched the pink colour scheme to help raise funds for our chosen charity. There was also a raffle to win a delicious Baileys hamper! All donations went to Great Oak Dean Forest Hospice in loving memory of Carolyn Rodwell.

At Viking we like to provide local community support and have raised money for Bristol Oncology Centre and are also providing support for St. Mary's Church Christmas fayre. Maria has also been involved in the B59 magazine by writing a monthly column as well as a quarterly column for the Henbury and Brentry newsletter. She has also been visiting local schools including Henleaze, Westbury-on-Trym and Henbury to give talks to educate children about responsible pet care.

The children's colouring competition has been very popular this year with lots of enthusiastic entries from a variety of ages. Each month a winner is picked and provided with a prize. Their artwork kept the waiting room wall entertaining and we hoped everyone enjoyed their prizes.



Viking
Veterinary Surgeons

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Christmas Crossword



ACROSS

1. Pumpkin or mincemeat
3. Santa's ride
6. Celebration
8. Newborn
9. Northpole crew
13. Word of praise
14. Words on a Christmas card
17. It's opened on Christmas

DOWN

1. Alternative word to 17 across
2. Christmas drink
4. Christmas dinner centerpiece
5. Dec. holiday
7. Christmas warmer
8. "Jingle ____"
10. Christmas tree
11. O. Henry's "The Gift of the ___"
12. What carolers do
15. French Christmas.
16. Snow glider



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*We would like to wish all our clients and their
pets a very merry Christmas and a happy new
year!!*