



## Chocolate Poisoning

Chocolate is one of the most common causes of poisoning in dogs. Generally the higher the percentage of cocoa or the darker the chocolate is the more poisonous it is to dogs. Chocolate contains a stimulant called theobromine and in large quantities this can cause problems with their heart and central nervous system.

### What are the signs of chocolate poisoning?

Dogs who have eaten a toxic amount of chocolate usually start showing symptoms between four and 24 hours later.

- These can include:
- vomiting
  - diarrhoea
  - restlessness
  - rapid breathing
  - seizures

### What should you do if your dog has eaten chocolate?

Urgent treatment will be needed if your dog has eaten a dangerous amount so contact your vet as soon as possible do not wait. The sooner you seek treatment the better the outcome can be. Make sure you have the details of the chocolate consumed to hand as this will help your vet calculate whether the amount that has been consumed is toxic or not.

### Chocolate stats to give you paws for thought:

309% increase in chocolate poisoning cases during the festive season

55% of dog owners admit their dogs have eaten chocolate  
94% of owners are aware chocolate is poisonous to dogs

## Wishing all our clients and their pets a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



We sincerely hope you do not require the Vets Now emergency services over the festive period but if you do they will be available as always at our Kingsnorth branch to help you outside of our opening hours.

We are open as usual except:  
24th December - Close at 2pm  
25th December - Emergencies only

26th December - Emergencies only  
31st December - Close at 5pm  
1st January - Emergencies only



## Cat Friendly Silver Award

Our Hawkhurst surgery has recently been awarded the title of Cat Friendly Clinic by the International Society of Feline Medicine. Qualifications include the provision of separate hospital kennels for cats and dogs and suitable waiting room areas for cats to remain hidden from the sometimes unwanted interest of passing dogs. Vets and nurses are trained in cat-friendly handling and the best ways to reduce stress for our feline friends to make their visits to us as easy and painless as possible. Ginger, looking very relaxed in the picture, can vouch for our facilities.



## Star Pet of the Month!

Did you know we run a monthly Star Pet of the Month photo competition? All pets can enter just post them on our Facebook page with **#starpetofthefmonth** and tell us a bit about them.



## Christmas Donations

Our branches will be having a donation box for any unwanted toys or food for the local dogs and cats in need. Just pop your donation in the box by 17th December.



## Open Days

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our Cinque Ports Veterinary Hospital Open Day in October. The sun stayed out for us and along with Guide Dogs, RSPCA, Vets Now and Cherry Tree Pet Crematorium we all had a great day. Our face painter was on hand to provide various animal faces and our cake stall went down a treat. You helped us raise £120 for the Guide Dogs charity.



Our Rye branch also held a Guide Dog Fund Raising Event on Saturday 3rd November. Thank you to everyone who came along and who helped to raise money by buying our homemade cakes, tea and coffee. There was also a raffle which was generously supported. We raised the grand total of £602.27. It was also a chance to meet with real Guide Dog puppies in training together with their fosterers who were able to answer loads of questions about what is involved in training these beautiful dogs. It costs presently £56,000 to raise each puppy and the upkeep of that dog for a lifetime.



## Welcome

We would like to welcome some new team members to Cinque Ports Vets. At Kingsnorth we have a new vet Emma Baker and a new Receptionist Jenny Uden who both joined us in October. At Lydd Carol Rose rejoined us as a receptionist in September and Hawkhurst welcomed new vet Mike Lazar in October.



Mike

## Can you Pinch an Inch?

The winter months are often a time of inactivity for us and our pets! Why not make a New Year resolution to look at your pet and check if they might be carrying a bit of extra weight. Do they have a saggy tummy? Can you feel their ribs or do you just feel flesh? All of these are signs that your pet may be overweight. Carrying excess weight can predispose pets to arthritis, heart disease, diabetes mellitus, back problems, skin problems, liver disease and a range of other issues. Given the potential health problems associated with excess weight it is important to address it, and that is where we can help. If you feel you may have a portly pug or a tubby tabby we are happy to weigh them and advise you on their ideal weight. If weight loss is required we can help find the most suitable diet and exercise programme. Please call us now to arrange a free appointment.



## Online Ordering

Online ordering is available for all medications, supplies and food. Please can we request that you allow 24 hours notice for ordering as this allows us enough time for the vet to authorise the supply and for us to ensure we have enough in stock for you. Visit our website to find out more.

## Winner of Cinque Ports Vets Client Survey

The lucky winner of our Client Survey draw for 2018 is Niki Young who receives a £25 voucher to spend on our services.

**You can complete our client survey by visiting the Client Care section on our website.**