

Booster Alert!

Amongst all the hustle and bustle of winter don't forget to check your pet's vaccines are up to date!

There are vaccines available for dogs, cats and rabbits. Vaccines are given against a range of infectious diseases that are often deadly and have no cure if contracted.



Dogs: In dogs the main diseases we vaccinate against are **Parvovirus**, **Hepatitis**, **Adenovirus**, **Leptospirosis** and **Distemper**. All of these diseases can prove fatal and can be very challenging to treat. Leptospirosis for example can cause liver and kidney problems and is contracted from rats, other dogs and wildlife. It is often fatal and is also infectious to humans (called a zoonosis). We can also protect dogs against **Kennel Cough**, which although less serious, is highly infectious.



Cats: We recommend vaccinating cats against Cat flu, Feline Leukaemia and Feline Enteritis.

Cat Flu is spread by airborne virus droplets. Cats are often very unwell with flu-like symptoms, which often become a long-term issue and it can be fatal in the old and the young.

Feline Leukaemia (FeLV) is acquired via cat fights and direct cat to cat contact. FeLV is usually fatal, typically within a couple of years of contracting the virus.

Feline Enteritis is thankfully rare, mainly due to vaccination.



Rabbits: In rabbits we recommend vaccinating against **Myxomatosis** and **Viral Haemorrhagic Disease** (which exists in two strains RVHD1 and RVHD2). All three of these viruses are frequently deadly, and often occur with very little warning.

So – if your pet's booster vaccines are out of date, don't delay, make an appointment today!



Winter weather alert!

The cold winter months bring particular challenges for our pets, and as their owners, we need to be aware of the problems they can suffer at this time of year. Here we look at some of the commonest winter hazards:

Winter walks: When you are out and about, it's important to make sure that your pets are adequately prepared; they may need to wear waterproof and warm jackets, especially if they are older or are short coated breeds such as whippets. Some salt mixtures on paths, and also snow building up between the paws, can cause limping and pain. So, do check your pet's feet regularly and make sure they are washed and clean on return from a walk.

Sore joints: Pets with joint problems often start to struggle in the colder weather. Look out for hanging back on walks, stiffness in the mornings or them being reluctant to go out. Many pets will benefit from anti-inflammatory medication and also joint supplements. You can also help by giving them lovely soft beds, and many will enjoy resting by the radiator or on a pet-safe hot water bottle!



Outdoor pets: Rabbits and guinea pigs are ideally brought into a heated garage or shed, or moved inside. Make sure they have plenty of bedding and that their water supply is fresh twice daily. Check your small furries at least once a day to make sure they are bright, eating and well. If you have a rabbit or guinea pig who lives alone, now is the ideal time to think about getting a friend of the same species so they have someone to cuddle up with!



Festive alert! During the festive season, make sure all your decorations and wires are out of reach of pets since they make very tempting toys! This is the time of year for indulgence and perhaps different foods in the house to normal. A reminder that chocolate, grapes, raisins, onions and the sweetener xylitol are poisonous; these are often in abundance in festive foods. Please ensure they are kept safely away from your pets – it's surprising how many dogs can sniff out delicious treats and then help themselves! Flowers like lilies are especially toxic for cats. Even the seasonal favourite, the poinsettia, can cause irritation if eaten.

For further information on any of the topics mentioned in this article, please speak to a member of our practice team who will be happy to help!



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from All at Maven Vets!

We hope you won't need to visit us over the festive period with your poorly pets, but if you do, we are here. Contact us as normal on **0208 337 2214** and you will be able to speak to one of our Maven Team, or, if we are closed, our out-of-hours emergency provider Vets Now.

Our opening times over the Christmas Period are:

Tuesday 24th December	... We are OPEN 8am – 7pm
Wednesday 25th December	... We are CLOSED*
Thursday 26th December	... We are CLOSED*
Friday 27th December	... We resume our normal opening hours from 8am – 8pm
Tuesday 31st December	... We are OPEN 8am – 7pm
Wednesday 1st January	... We are CLOSED*

Normal opening hours will resume from 8am Thursday 2nd January 2025

***AN EMERGENCY SERVICE WILL BE RUNNING WITH VETS NOW**

Our opening hours

Monday – Friday 8am–8pm

Saturday 9am–1pm

Sunday 10am–2pm

In an Emergency day or night – call us on 0208 337 2214

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609-613 London Road, North Cheam, Surrey, SM3 9DF

CAT FRIENDLY CORNER

Keeping your cat safe and well during the Winter months



As the days get longer and colder there are a few considerations for you to keep your cats safe and well and not needing an unexpected trip to the vet!

- **The cold weather** - You cat will likely choose to stay home when it gets cold, but as they are not used to extreme weather, they can develop hypothermia, so it is best to keep them inside in the warm. Particularly overnight when the cold really sets in. For the older cats and those suffering with joint disease additional softer bedding that provides extra warmth will be very appreciated!
- **Dark evenings** - As the nights draw in, please be aware your cat is less likely to be seen on the roads when it is dark and sadly are more at risk of road traffic incidents.
- **Warm hide areas** - Cats will find warmth themselves when it is cold, in areas such as car bonnets or car engines so always check if you suspect this before starting any journey.
- **Anti-freeze** is used quite regularly during this time of year, and it is important to be aware that this is highly poisonous to cats and even swallowing a small amount can be extremely dangerous. Cats are attracted to the sweet smell of this, which they can also get on their paws and fur. If you are suspicious they have been in contact with anti-freeze, this is life threatening, immediately wash their fur and contact us straight away. If ingestion is suspected, Veterinary attention will be required.
- Likewise, **salt grit** is also toxic to cats when eaten, contact us immediately with any concerns.
- **Toileting** - For those who would normally go outside to toilet, sometimes the cold weather can deter them from this. They may choose to avoid going outside and instead withhold toileting, which can cause serious medical concerns. Particularly in male cats which can lead to urethral blockages. Offering a litter tray indoors, one each plus one additional for multi-household cats, will give them the option to go to the toilet without avoiding the cold outside.

Over the festive period there are extra considerations to think about not just to keep our cats safe but also happy..

- **Christmas** is an exciting yet busy time, we have more people in our homes which can be a stressful time for cats. It is important to allow them to have their own space to escape to, somewhere in a quiet calm area of the home away from the hustle and bustle.
- **Decorations and lights** are very appealing for your cat to play with and possibly ingest, which can cause serious complications should they cause blockages.
- **Poinsettia and lilies** are popular Christmas plants but please be aware these can be poisonous and medical treatment will be required should your cat choose to ingest/lick any of this from their coat or paws.

If you have any concerns regarding any of these issues, please do give us a call on 0208 337 2214.

Worming worries!



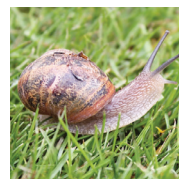
Does worming your pets seem like a constant battle? Unfortunately you can't vaccinate against worms, so regular worming treatment is the only way to ensure your pets stay worm free! There are three main worms we are concerned about, and can treat – tapeworms, roundworms and lungworms.

Roundworms and tapeworms inhabit your pet's intestines, interfering with food absorption and may also be a cause of gut inflammation, failure to thrive and diarrhoea. Lungworms, as their name suggests, spend much of their time in the lungs.

Tapeworms are long flat, segmented worms which live in the small intestines. They shed small *mobile* segments that pass out in the faeces and are often found around the tail areas of cats. As the segments break down they release eggs into the environment.

These eggs may be eaten by *intermediate hosts* – these include **fleas** and **small rodents** such as mice and voles. As a result cats which are "mousers" will commonly have tapeworms. Similarly pets swallow fleas as they groom, and so re-infect themselves with tapeworms.

Roundworms are most commonly found in young animals but can infect adults as well. Many pups and kittens are born infected with roundworms because they cross the placenta and are also live in the milk. They are spaghetti like in appearance and also live in the small intestines. They can cause weight loss, vomiting, diarrhoea and a pot belly in puppies and kittens. Adult roundworms shed eggs which are passed out in your pet's faeces and infect the environment. Pets can become re-infected by unwittingly eating the eggs, often whilst grooming. Additionally the eggs can pose a risk to humans if accidentally ingested.



Lungworm (also known as *Angiostrongylus Vasorum*) causes life threatening disease in dogs. Slugs and snails act as 'intermediate hosts' and are commonly infected with immature lungworm larvae. If infected slugs and snails are eaten by a dog, the larvae migrate to their lungs. Here they develop into adult worms up to 2cm in size. The adults live and lay eggs inside the vessels of the lungs and the right side of the heart, causing symptoms such as coughing and exercise intolerance. Larvae migrate into lung tissue, causing blood clots, bleeding problems and even sudden death. The larvae are coughed up and pass out in the faeces where they are eaten by slugs and snails, so continuing the lifecycle. Lungworm is also very prevalent in foxes.

There are a variety of **veterinary licenced** treatments to prevent worm infections which are easy to administer and suitable for dogs and cats. Please contact us to find out how we can help you best protect your pets.



Tapeworms are long segmented worms which shed segments.



Roundworms are long, white and spaghetti like.

This Newsletter is provided as an education service to our clients. All news and other items in this newsletter are for information only and should not be treated as a substitute for specific veterinary advice. For all images, the copyright is the property of the photographer.

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