



# I Don't Feel Well



"Yes that's right...  
they are all gone  
except one...  
the orange cream!"

This was one dog owner's report to a veterinary receptionist, when she called for advice after her dog had just scooped a box of birthday chocolates she received that morning. The gift was momentarily left unattended in all the excitement, and the dog seized the opportunity for a choc feast! Why the orange cream was left is a complete mystery, and although amusing, we must say chocolate eating by dogs is no laughing matter. **It contains theobromine and caffeine, which are poisonous to animals**, and can cause major illness. Sadly in some cases it may even be fatal.

The effects depend on the time lapsed since the chocolate was eaten, the size of your pet, how much and what type.

**Dark, bitter chocolate is particularly dangerous**, but **any** has the potential to make your dog poorly. In this particular case, the owner seeing the ripped, almost empty box, called her vet immediately. She arrived some ten minutes later with her dog, who despite eating his owner's present, showed no remorse and looked very happy.

This can be very deceiving for the owner, if your pet is showing no signs of illness. Don't be fooled; it is vital to treat your pet quickly, as the theobromine and caffeine can begin to affect their heart rate, increase blood pressure and inflame the pancreas. Fortunately for this dog the offending chocolate was removed by medically induced vomiting, and with some further treatment, he went home a few hours later.

Chocolate poisoning is more likely to occur in dogs, as their excellent sense of smell can sniff out the stash! So with chocolate at home in some form, **especially during the festive season**, please store all chocolate or foods containing it, well out of your pets reach.

Signs of chocolate poisoning are

- Vomiting - Diarrhoea**
- Hyperactivity**
- Muscle Twitching**
- Increased Heart Rate**
- Seizures - Collapse**

**There is no antidote for chocolate poisoning.**

If you suspect your dog has eaten chocolate or notice any of the above signs, call us immediately. If you can tell us the type, e.g. dark or milk, biscuits, cake, powdered etc., when it was eaten and the quantity, this will help with our calculations and enable us to give you the best advice.

**For further information please speak with our friendly team.**



## Your new kitten .....VIP!

It's so exciting when the patter of tiny paws arrives in the household.

Very quickly your new kitten becomes an important part of the family, and there is much to consider in those early days.

**What vaccinations do they require?**

**How often do I need to worm my kitten?**

**Should I have them neutered?**

**How much will all this cost?**

Here at Hillpark, your pets as always are our number one priority. We understand you want to give your new kitten the best possible start in life, but that sometimes the purse strings can be rather stretched. So to help you, we have created a very simple, inexpensive and neat little package to cover your kitten's initial preventative healthcare.

### The VIP Kitten Package includes

- ✓ Full Healthcheck.
- ✓ First vaccination at 9 weeks old covering flu, enteritis and leukaemia.
- ✓ Spot On Stronghold for fleas and worms.
- ✓ Plus an optional \*free one month insurance with Petplan.
- ✓ Second part of vaccination course at 12 weeks old for flu, enteritis and leukaemia.
- ✓ At 4 months old spaying or castration plus a microchip.

**All of the above covers your kitten's initial preventative healthcare for just £95.**

\*You must sign for insurance at reception for validity

We encourage continuation of flea and worming treatments throughout your cat's life and we can advise on one suitable for their lifestyle and environment. So if you are interested, please call the surgery and a member of our team will have all the information you need.



### Harold Hill

01708 344455 01708 386046

Monday to Friday 9am - 6.30pm

Saturday 9am - 12.30pm

### Elm Park

01708 458424 01708 438039

Monday to Friday 9am - 6.30pm

Saturday 4pm - 6.30pm

Sunday 10am - 6.30pm ★

Consultations by Appointment

**24 hour 7 day  
Emergency Service**

[www.hillparkvets.co.uk](http://www.hillparkvets.co.uk)

01708 344455

## It's Scary Time Again!

So the fireworks season is almost upon us, and those loud bangs and screeches will be heard pretty much throughout the next few months. As we happily 'oooo' and 'aahh' at the pretty starbursts in the sky and jump at the explosive sounds, sadly for some pets, it is a particularly distressing time. **If your cat or dog is affected by fireworks, now is the time to begin the preparations to help make your pet feel more relaxed, comfortable and secure.**



Here at Hillpark we believe it is the core of the problem that needs to be addressed. The core is 'the fear' pets experience. We used to think sedating a dog at these stressful times was the answer, but it is now seen that sedation does not remove fear, as it just produces a sleepy, but still very petrified pet!

**The way forward in dealing with this major problem, is to help modify the behaviour and reduce stress.**

No pet owner likes to see their pet scared, and unfortunately at these times the natural reaction is of course to comfort them. However, this only reinforces their worry that something is actually wrong.

**A key action in dealing with the problem is to build a calming and relaxed environment around your pet.**

There are now products available in collars, sprays and plug in diffusers that emit a comforting and reassuring scent, which is similar to the calming pheromones produced by a nursing bitch to her puppies. You can further promote relaxation with a natural product added to their food.

**The Scary Package** During October, November and December, we are offering a combination of these gold standard calming products at a reduced cost, to help you and your pet happily cope with the firework season. **We have plenty advice for owners on helping nervous pets, so please contact us in advance of the firework season to discuss an appropriate Scary Package to suit your pet.**

## .....Calling all registered Cats



**If your cat is over the age of 8**, and registered here at Hillpark, now is the time to book your pet an appointment with a Registered Veterinary Nurse for a **Senior Cat Urine Check.**

**This simple test costs just £6, and can identify diabetes and kidney disease.**

If the result is positive, then a plan of treatment can be organised to help your pet cope with the conditions, so they can enjoy a better quality of life in their senior years.



**Have a Cracker of a Christmas from all of us at Hillpark!**



## Hillpark Cat Food

**....now on our shelves!**

Our Hillpark brand Dog Food we launched a few months ago, has proved very popular with the canine world, and we are happy to report that we can now provide your feline friends with the same excellent quality food.

**Specifically designed for your cats' dietary needs, the food is available in three life stage diets Kitten Adult and Senior**

- ✓ Veterinary formulated using the best quality ingredients
- ✓ Hypo-allergenic
- ✓ No added colours
- ✓ No added flavours or preservatives
- ✓ Benefits from added vitamins and minerals
- ✓ Manufactured in the UK
- ✓ Exceptional value for money compared to similar products on the market

**All at £7.99 for 2kg size bag**

**Buy 4 get one free**

with the Hillpark loyalty card

Just call or visit the practice, where we are happy to provide further information, and answer any questions about Hillpark's brand of dietary and natural healthcare products for your pets.

**Your cat can try before you buy. Simply pop into the practice and pick up a FREE food sample.**

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