



BEWARE Lungworm!

Most pet owners know how important it is to regularly treat their pet for parasitic worms. All types of worms are a health risk to your pet, and in some cases humans too, so please do ensure that your pet is covered.

Lungworm (*Angiostrongylus Vasorum*) is a particularly nasty parasite that can make your dog seriously ill, and very sadly in some cases if left untreated, can be fatal. If infected, lungworm lives in the heart and blood vessels that supply the lungs. Take a look to the right to see how this parasite could infect your pets. Perhaps they are snail eaters or sniff around in grass? Even feeding bowls and toys that are in the garden can have infected snail trails.

Common symptoms of lungworm infections are:

- coughing ● rapid/difficulty breathing ● weight loss
- loss of appetite ● lethargy ● pale gums ● seizures
- vomiting and/or diarrhoea ● bleeding problems

If you notice any of the above, please bring your pet in for a check up without delay.



A Kiss Under the Mistletoe

Ancient Druids and Norse Mythology tell mystical stories of this seasonal plant, but unfortunately the truth for your pet ...it is poisonous!

Mistletoe and berries, fresh or dried, contain toxic substances.

If ingested, this can cause severe intestinal upset, a sudden drop in blood pressure and breathing difficulties.

Sadly in some cases this can be fatal.

Holly/berries are also toxic, so either avoid having holly and mistletoe in your home, or keep these plants well out of reach of cats and dogs! **If you notice any of the following signs** or suspect ingestion of either plant, please contact your vet immediately.

Excessive Drooling - Vomiting - Diarrhoea - Stomach Pain - Seizures

Poinsettias can also cause problems, but the level of toxicity is milder. However, extra care is required if these plants are in your home.

The white sap found in poinsettias irritates the skin, mouth and throat, causing redness, itching and swelling. Puppies, kittens, and smaller breeds are more at risk, as their size and the amount of plant ingested will determine the seriousness of poisoning.

If ingested it may cause: vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling and lip licking.

Again, always contact your vet immediately if your pet shows any of these signs.



Reduce the spread of lungworm

- Maintain regular worming treatments.
- Clean up and correctly dispose of your dog's poo from the garden and on walks.
- Minimise pets contact with snails and slugs.
- **Before use**, thoroughly wash toys, water and food bowls that have been in the garden.

If you are unsure of what preventative treatments to use and how often, please ask for advice from our friendly team.

****PLEASE REMEMBER** Slug pellets placed in your garden are highly toxic, and can be fatal to dogs and other pets if eaten.**

HILLPARK HOURS

See overleaf for our Xmas Hours

Harold Hill

01708 344455 01708 386046

Monday to Saturday
9am - 6.30pm

Elm Park

01708 458424 01708 438039

Monday to Friday
9am - 6.30pm
Sunday 10am - 6.30pm ★

Consultations by Appointment
24 hour 7 day
Emergency Service

www.hillparkvets.co.uk
01708 344455

It's a busy and fun time for all, but please spare a few minutes to take note of our helpful reminders for pet happy festivities!

MAKE sure your dog is on a lead when walking close to frozen ponds and rivers.



EXERCISE pets regularly over the festive season, it's part of their routine healthcare.

ROCKETS and fireworks can cause some pets much distress, but we have plenty of help and advice.

RECHARGEABLE and regular batteries are extremely dangerous if chewed or swallowed by your pet.



YOUR fairy lights are very pretty, but watch out for pets chewing at wires and plugs.

CHOCOLATE contains theobromine, which is poisonous to dogs and cats. Store it out of their reach.

HELP our feathered friends in winter. Keep the wild bird table topped up.



REMIND visiting guests who are on medication to store it carefully. While you eat your turkey dinner, your pet could be munching Aunt Ethel's pills!

IF your pet falls ill when the surgery is closed, call our emergency service.

SUPERVISE all pets near open fires and log burners.

TURKEY carcass bones are sharp when broken and can get lodged in the throat and stomach. Please do not feed them to your pet!

MINCE PIES contain raisins, which can be toxic to dogs if ingestedgrapes too.



ANTIFREEZE for cars tastes sweet to pets, but is potentially fatal if swallowed. Please clear away any spills and don't let your pet drink from puddles.

SMALL PETS living outside require extra warm dry bedding, regular checks and unfrozen drinking water. Ensure hutches are rain and draught proof.

1 Lindfield Road **Harold Hill** RM3 9BJ



01708 344455
01708 386046

Gagging Cats!

When reports started coming through on my mobile of gagging cats, I immediately rushed off to investigate the latest incident! On arrival, I found the victim hunched in a corner who managed in between gagging to tell me of his problem. "Well you know how fussy we cats are about our appearance always groomingyou know licking and nibbling at our fur..... well you never think it's going to happen to you but then bang...you're a victim! At this point he paused and launched into a series of coughing and retching. "It's no use" he whispered "I just can't shift it, I need help please".

Fortunately I can report that his owner on seeing the trouble her cat was in, whisked him off to the vets. Following in haste, I waited outside for her to emerge and as she did, asked if her cat was okay?

"Well thank goodness" she said, "I'm very happy to tell you that Tiddles is much better now and recovering from his ordeal. It seems that he had formed a hairball from the fur that he swallows while grooming. The vet told me that this usually passes through the digestive system and is pooped out, but in Tiddles' case this did not happen and the hairball was stuck! With some treatment it has now been removed. Tiddles is much happier and I can take him home soon"

So cat owners, if you see your cat gagging and retching, please call your vet immediately for advice. Also watch out for loss of appetite, constipation and in the more serious cases, a swollen abdomen. This is Carrie Cat signing off for Hill Park Vets News.



Carrie Cat



Reporter
Extraordinaire

Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

Saturday 24 December **Christmas Eve** 10am - 6.30pm Harold Hill
 Sunday 25 Dec **Christmas Day** and Mon 26 Dec **Boxing Day** closed
Emergency Phone only 07775 862702

Tuesday 27 December **Bank Holiday** 10am - 6.30pm Elm Park
usual hours
 Wed 28, Thurs 29 & Fri 30 December 9am - 6.30pm Harold Hill
 Saturday 31 December **New Years Eve** 10am - 6.30pm Elm Park
 Sunday 1 January 2023 **New Years Day** 10am - 6.30pm Harold Hill
 Monday 2 January **Bank Holiday** back to usual hours
 Tuesday 3 January **Emergencies** outside these hours phone **07817 895177**

Get your order in!

Ho Ho Ho! For some the festive plans are underway, so just a reminder that if your pet requires repeat medication or other pet supplies over the holiday season, **please do order well in advance.**

The surgery and our suppliers' opening hours vary during this period, so **please call us with your order to ensure you are stocked up before Christmas Eve!**



Published by www.vetarazzi.co.uk 01284 361429



89 Coronation Drive **Elm Park** RM12 5BT



01708 458424
01708 438039