

## A Little Note from Max

# The Nightmare before Christmas!

Having taken the summer off for some much needed R and R, I am back with renewed enthusiasm to share my knowledge and experiences with you all. Whilst I was off and the 'carers' were out at work, I've been busy researching my latest article

### Tinsel Town

With Christmas just around the corner, (scary I know, just a few shopping days left) it seems like a good time to pre-empt the hidden dangers lurking under the Christmas tree. Most pet owners are aware of the common ones such as chocolate and Christmas cake, but how many would think about the potential dangers of tinsel, poinsettias, pine needles or left-over Christmas dinner?

Only last Christmas one of my 'carers' colleagues fished a one foot long length of tinsel from a dog's stomach in life saving surgery - fortunately she made a full recovery. Very sensibly her owners were insured, which meant that the emergency call-out, complicated surgery and extensive after-care were all covered. As you can imagine, there was rather a large bill. Some dogs and cats will eat the strangest things, so try to keep the tinsel and baubles away from the lower branches of the tree.

### Mind the Paws!

Spaniel owners will be very aware of the perils of grass seeds in the summer months, but what about those spiky pine

needles dropping from the Christmas tree? Ouch! Mind those paws!

Whilst we are on the subject of festive plants the poinsettia is a member of the toxic lily family, so cat owners beware. If a cat eats the leaves of the plant it can cause vomiting and abdominal discomfort. My advice would be to get a plastic one (no not the cat). They are pet-safe and much less likely to perish once your 'carer' has forgotten to water them after Christmas.



### Jingle 'Belly' Rock

Probably the most common occurrences over the Christmas period are dogs and cats presenting with horrendous upset stomachs after gorging themselves on left-over Christmas dinner. Now I know I'm not going to make myself popular amongst my furry friends, but honestly guys - it is just not worth it. As boring as it might sound, stick to your usual dog or cat food, you will enjoy it much more than a visit to the V.E.T.S. You know where they put those thermometers! So that just about wraps up 'The Nightmare before Christmas!' Feel free to drop me a line on email [max@stowvets.co.uk](mailto:max@stowvets.co.uk) if there is anything you would like me to cover in my articles.

My carer and his colleagues can be contacted on: 01451 830620, 24 hours a day if you need them.

From all at Stow Veterinary Surgeons, we wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

**Chow! Max**