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## Companion Animal Newsletter - DECEMBER 2019

### 12 FOREIGN BODIES OF CHRISTMAS!

Here at Dalehead we're getting ready for Christmas. We've made several lists and we've checked them twice in the hope that your Christmas is not naughty but nice.

Sing along to the song "The 12 Days of Christmas" to discover the most common things dogs and cats swallow at Christmas...



**1.** On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me, lights off the Christmas tree.



**2.** On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me, 2 squeaky toys, and the lights off the Christmas tree.



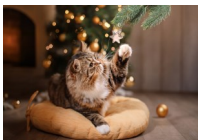
**3.** On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me, 3 Lego pieces, 2 squeaky toys, and the lights off the Christmas tree.



**4.** On the fourth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, 4 shell on walnuts, 3 Lego pieces, 2 squeaky toys, and the lights off the Christmas tree.



**5.** On the fifth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, 5 bows and ribbons, 4 shell on walnuts, 3 Lego pieces, 2 squeaky toys, and the lights off the Christmas tree.



**6.** On the sixth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, 6 shiny baubles, 5 bows and ribbons, 4 shell on walnuts, 3 Lego pieces, 2 squeaky toys, and the lights off the Christmas tree.



**7.** On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me, 7 strands of tinsel, 6 shiny baubles, 5 bows and ribbons, 4 shell on walnuts, 3 Lego pieces, 2 squeaky toys, and the lights off the Christmas tree.



**8.** On the eighth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, 8 Santa stockings, 7 strands of tinsel, 6 shiny baubles, 5 bows and ribbons, 4 shell on walnuts, 3 Lego pieces, 2 squeaky toys, and the lights off the Christmas tree.



**9.** On the ninth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, 9 bulbs and flowers, 8 Santa stockings, 7 strands of tinsel, 6 shiny baubles, 5 bows and ribbons, 4 shell on walnuts, 3 Lego pieces, 2 squeaky toys, and the lights off the Christmas tree.



**10.** On the tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, 10 cracker toys, 9 bulbs and flowers, 8 Santa stockings, 7 strands of tinsel, 6 shiny baubles, 5 bows and ribbons, 4 shell on walnuts, 3 Lego pieces, 2 squeaky toys, and the lights off the Christmas tree.



**11.** On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me, 11 lithium batteries, 10 cracker toys, 9 bulbs and flowers, 8 Santa stockings, 7 strands of tinsel, 6 shiny baubles, 5 bows and ribbons, 4 shell on walnuts, 3 Lego pieces, 2 squeaky toys, and the lights off the Christmas tree.



**12.** On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, 12 pigs in blankets, 11 lithium batteries, 10 cracker toys, 9 bulbs and flowers, 8 Santa stockings, 7 strands of tinsel, 6 shiny baubles, 5 bows and ribbons, 4 shell on walnuts, 3 Lego pieces, 2 squeaky toys, and the lights off the Christmas tree.

Here's hoping we don't see you for any of these, but if you need us in an emergency we are here for you 24/7. Merry Christmas!

## HAPPIER BITCHES, HAPPIER PUPPIES.



Mother dogs communicate with their puppies through natural messages released into the air. These comforting messages are called Dog Appeasing Pheromones. These canine odourless messages are only perceived by dogs, neither by people nor by cats. They provide a strong signal of security and comfort to dogs of all ages.

Adaptil has been used by vets and pet owners worldwide since 2000 and is particularly effective for new or challenging situations. New clinical data proves it can help bitches during parturition (giving birth). Signs of stress shown by the bitch around parturition can be abnormal activity or pacing, trembling or panting, barking and other vocalisations, destructing of the whelping box or refusing to

get in it and aggressiveness towards other dogs and people. Adaptil can help relax bitches during and after birth which is less stress for bitches = less stress for breeders. This appeasing pheromone can aid during peri-partum and improve the bitch's maternal behaviour, helping increase mother-puppy contact time, mother-puppy care score and mother-puppy relationship score.

Bitches who have been exposed to Adaptil have spent more time feeding their puppies in the lying position = easier access to the nipple for all puppies. The home diffuser can be used in the maternity room in preparation for whelping and post-partum and with a relaxed, confident bitch, puppies will thrive during the important early stages of their development.

Puppies can continue this support in their new home so they are ready for their new challenges, it can help reduce night crying, support adaptation to new stressful situations and aid training and socialisation.

We are able to offer advice and have a selection of products and booklets available to help make your experience of breeding and puppy rearing an informed and positive one. Please contact the surgery or call in for an informal chat with a member of the companion animal team.



## WALKING YOUR DOG AT NIGHT



Many of us lead busy lives and during the winter months walking our dogs during the hours of darkness is often the only option. So to keep us all safe we have several dog walking in the dark safety measures.

### POTENTIAL HAZARDS WHEN WALKING YOUR DOG AT NIGHT

- Other dogs
- Other walkers
- Cyclists
- Potholes and other trip hazards
- Moving vehicles

When walking your dog in the dark, there are two simple things you can do to make your walks easier and keep yourself safe. These are:

- **Always carry a torch**, or better still, wear a head torch, as this will leave your hands free for lead and poo bag duties.
- **Wear bright reflective clothing**. It's equally important you wear a bright coat, ideally one with reflectors. Remember **See and be Seen!**

### HOW DO I KEEP MY DOG SAFE WHEN WALKING IN THE DARK?

Obviously when its dark and we allow our dogs off the lead, we are far more likely to lose them, which could lead to a mishap resulting in a visit to the vets. However, there are lots of things available allowing us to keep an eye on our four legged friends. These include:





- **Reflective Gear:** Reflective collars, leads and coats are advisable for your dog along with a reflective coat or gilet for yourself.
- **LED lights:** These lights are now lighter and brighter than ever and batteries last much longer or can be recharged via a USB. They come in various ways including collars or clip on tags.

#### THINGS TO BE AWARE OF WHEN WALKING YOUR DOG AT NIGHT

Familiarity helps, so if you plan on taking your dog on a new walking route you should try to do it in daylight first. Other things to consider are:

- **Other dogs:** Meeting other dogs is more of an issue in the dark, so if your pet is nervous it's probably best to keep them on a lead or within sight
- **Other people:** Consider joggers on paths and cyclists on bridleways
- **Potholes and other objects:** Be aware of broken glass and other sharp objects which can injure your dog's feet. Lively dogs may also attempt to jump over fences or walls and may be unable to see the depth or the drop on the other side, or other hazards like barbed wire.
- **Cars and other vehicles:** Road traffic accidents are a common cause of emergency admissions, particularly during the hours of darkness.

Please call in to our Settle surgery to see our 'BRIGHT' product selection.



## YOUR RABBIT IN THE WINTER

Now that the weather is cold, please don't forget your rabbits! They still need the correct food and plenty of exercise. You should allow your rabbits permanent access to a warm bedding area and an outside run. Let them choose where they want to be. The ideal situation is where you can connect their bedding area and outdoor run with a tunnel and there are companies that make kits for you to do this. It is important not to shut your rabbit up for the winter months, by all means move their housing to a warmer, more sheltered location and add more insulating layers, but don't forget that they need to be able to go outside too. Some rabbits enjoy the snow! Housing neutered rabbits together allows them to huddle up and be much warmer, as well as providing permanent companionship.

Feed your rabbit a diet composed of 85% 'forage' (grass and hay), 15% fresh greens and 5% grass-based pellets. Never feed muesli mixes: they can cause digestive problems as they are too low in fibre, and severe dental problems. Indoor rabbits should be fed an indoor rabbit pellet (e.g. Burgess Excel Indoor Rabbit) which has higher levels of vitamin D than the normal food. Always select a good quality feeding hay that is sold for that purpose. There is a huge difference in quality between hays sold for 'bedding' and those for feeding. Your rabbit may nibble the bedding hay, but that doesn't mean it doesn't need a nice, good quality feeding hay. Always shop around to see what your rabbit prefers—they can be fussy! For indoor rabbits why not put hay in a cardboard tube to stimulate foraging?

If your rabbit is living outside during the winter then it does need to maintain a reasonable body condition – just the right amount of fat and muscle. You may need to slightly increase the pellet ration during the winter to get the right balance. If you are unsure then you can always consult us to help guide you on body condition. Some older rabbits may need access to even warmer shelters than fitter younger rabbits. Using items such as a 'snuggle safe' – a microwaveable heat pad – can help with this, but always give the choice as rabbits can easily overheat. Conversely if your rabbit is an indoor rabbit, you may need to keep a slightly cooler room for them to go in, out of the central heating.





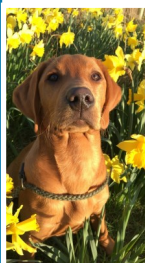
CALENDAR 2020

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## BENTHAM PET RESCUE CALENDAR—ON SALE NOW!

Earlier this summer, Bentham Pet Rescue asked for our help in collating photos for their annual charity calendar. We were thrilled, as we see so many beautiful pets coming through our doors, we were sure that their proud owners would have some fabulous pictures. You didn't disappoint us and we had some amazing contributions sent in, which hopefully you saw on our Facebook page. Nine of the photos shown were chosen to feature in the 2020 calendar (shown below) and they look great!

The calendars are now printed and available to buy in both our Settle and Bentham surgeries for just £6.00. They make the perfect stocking filler and you have the added kudos of knowing that as well as being a really nice gift, you are helping to support the work of this fantastic local charity.



## DOG BREEDS ANAGRAMS

Well you have opened the presents, eaten the turkey, Christmas pud, Chocolate Orange, Toblerone and started on the Matchmakers! There is nothing on the television and Nana is snoring in the armchair. Bored now ..... hmmm what to do? Fear not we have a fun quiz to brighten your day! All the anagrams below are a breed of dog—unscramble the letters to work out the answers. Check how you did when we reveal the breeds in next month's newsletter and on our Facebook page in the New Year.

**BARR LOAD**

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**MAD AT LION**

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**RILE DOOR BELL**

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**DADS HUNCH**

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**EAR SNIP PRINGLES**

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**CALL US JERKS**

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**LONGER BEER**

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**ROVER GREEN TILE**

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**EEL BAG**

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**BISON R CHIEF**

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**RED HEMP HANGERS**

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**EAT DANGER**

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**TANDOOR PADDLES**

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**RIB ZOO**

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