



Dunton VETERINARY CLINIC

News

Winter 2018

☎ 01675 470322

Feline Winter Wellness Offer

Includes:

- ✓ Health check
- ✓ Blood pressure
- ✓ Blood test

60% OFF



Winter Warning!



With longer nights & colder temperatures, not to mention the festivities mean there's plenty of mischief our pets can get into. So here are a few tips to get you through the winter!

Walkies: Be seen by wearing high visibility reflective garments for you & your pet. Ensure slim fine coated breeds, elderly dogs & young pups are wearing coats as they find it hard to conserve heat. Stay safe by keeping dogs on leads near frozen lakes & canals as falling through the ice could be fatal. Once home get those paws washed as snow & ice can ball up between toes & road grit can cause nasty sores.

Small furries: For those that live outdoors, ensure they have plenty of extra bedding to keep them warm. Position their enclosure in a more sheltered area. Cover water bottles with thick socks to prevent them from freezing. It's also important to check on them regularly.

Festive food: Please avoid feeding your pets any human food as this can lead to upset tummies at the very least. Raisins in puddings, pies & cakes can be very toxic to the kidneys & just 50g of plain chocolate can be fatal to small dogs. Turkey bones can cause damage the gut & cause dangerous blockages.

Decorations: Ensure your tree & decorations are out of reach or securely fastened down. Cats especially find twinkly lights, tinsel & baubles irresistible but playing with these could cause them harm if they chew them & accidentally swallow them.

Visitors: Make sure your pets have somewhere safe they can retreat to if all the festivities become too much for them.

Give Your Pet a Gift For Life Not Just Christmas!

What better way to show your canine & feline companions you truly care than by ensuring all their essential preventative health care needs are looked after. Not only that but you will receive great savings too! You can do this by joining our Pet Care Plan & choosing either to spread the cost by paying monthly via direct debit or paying for 12 months up front.

Our Pet Care Plan Members Enjoy

- ✓ Health check & annual booster (includes kennel cough for dogs)
- ✓ A year's supply of premium prescription flea & worming treatment (including lungworm protection)
 - ✓ Six month health check
 - ✓ Microchip
 - ✓ Nail clip
- ✓ Dental check including free bottle of Dentagen
 - ✓ Blood pressure monitor (for cats)
 - ✓ Empty anal glands (for dogs)
- ✓ A further 10% off all products & services



With plans starting from just £15.00 per month & minimum savings of at least £62.41 per year you'd be barking not to join!

Dunton Veterinary Clinic, Vicarage Hill, Middleton, Tamworth, B78 2AT

☎ 01675 470322

🌐 www.duntonvets.com

Oh Behave!

It's no secret that when it comes down to our pets we all want a well behaved companion but very rarely does this just happen. There are a lot of factors to consider before getting a pet & once they are living with us.

It's a sad fact that many pets are rehomed & even euthanised as a result of behaviour issues arising from their needs not being met. Most of these cases can be avoided by doing the homework first, saving a lot of stress & heartache & by getting the right help before things escalate.

Some behaviour we consider unsuitable is completely normal & will vary between species & breeds so it's important to find a pet that is compatible with your lifestyle. Once you have done this have a look at different breeds especially dogs, as characteristics vary greatly between them. For instance a breed from the working group may not be best suited to a quiet life & equally one from the toy group does not necessarily mean they are less demanding.

Beyond this, behaviour can be negatively affected by an unsuitable diet & environment & lack of mental & physical stimulation. Leading to poor mental & physical health resulting in unsuitable behaviour; being destructive, aggressive or withdrawn.

Play is important in building bonds & is both mentally & physically stimulating, preventing boredom & pets "entertaining" themselves by being destructive. Stress can lead to over grooming in many species for instance our feathered friends will result to self mutilation & pluck their feather out in distress.

Some pets may suffer from temporary behavioural issues due to sensitivity around fireworks or a change in routine or social structure.

Getting your pet from a reputable breeder & steering clear from puppy farms will ensure your pet is from healthy stock. A good breeder will be more than happy to answer questions & provide continued support.

Ensuring you meet all their needs by providing them with company if they are a social species like dogs or keeping a lone cat as they are generally a solitary species.

Feed a high quality diet that meets all their nutritional needs but doesn't over compensate as this can lead to behavioural issues. It's also a good idea to make them work for food by hiding it, using feeding balls & interactive games to encourage their natural foraging behaviour.

Most importantly if you are experiencing behavioural issues with your pet get the right help sooner rather than later. If you are already seeing a behaviourist they should ask you to get your pet assessed by a vet to rule out any underlying medical conditions that may be affecting the behaviour. Equally your vet may refer you to a behaviourist.

Before you get a pet:

- Research, research, research
- Take into account characteristics & quirks of certain species & breeds
- Choose a species & breed compatible with your lifestyle
- Purchase your pet from a reputable breeder

Keeping your pet happy:

- Feed a high quality diet
- Provide them with plenty of mental & physical stimulation
- Seek professional help from a veterinary surgeon & qualified behaviourist

Useful websites to help you choose the right pet & source professional help:

- Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors www.apbc.org.uk
- The Kennel Club www.thekennelclub.org.uk
- International Cat Care www.icatcare.org
- Blue Cross www.bluecross.org.uk



Practice News!



Xmas & New Year Opening Times 2018/2019

- ❖ 24th Dec 8.30am - 4pm
- ❖ 25th Dec **CLOSED**
- ❖ 26th Dec **CLOSED**
- ❖ 27th Dec **OPEN AS NORMAL**
- ❖ 27th Dec **OPEN AS NORMAL**
- ❖ 29th Dec 9am – 1pm
- ❖ 30th Dec **CLOSED**
- ❖ 31st Dec 8.30am – 4pm
- ❖ 1st Jan **CLOSED**
- ❖ 2nd Jan **OPEN AS NORMAL**

Practice Website

If you get chance, have a look at our practice website at:

www.duntonvets.com

Don't Forget!

Keep your contact details up to date with us, including your mobile phone number & email address. To ensure you don't miss out on any special offers & important reminders for your pet. We promise no spam!



Like & share us on fb for regular updates from the Dunton team