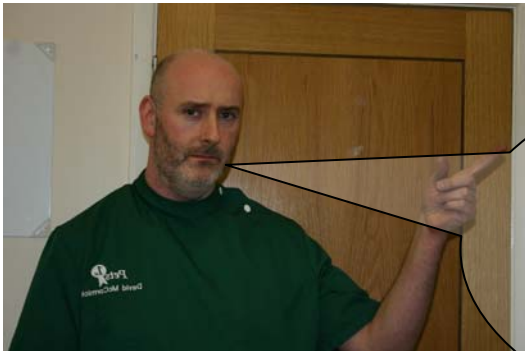


THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

POINSETTIA INGESTION

Poinsettia poisoning can occur in both cats and dogs, but tends to be seen more in cats, as they are slightly stupid!



For poisoning to occur the animal needs to eat the leaves of the plant.

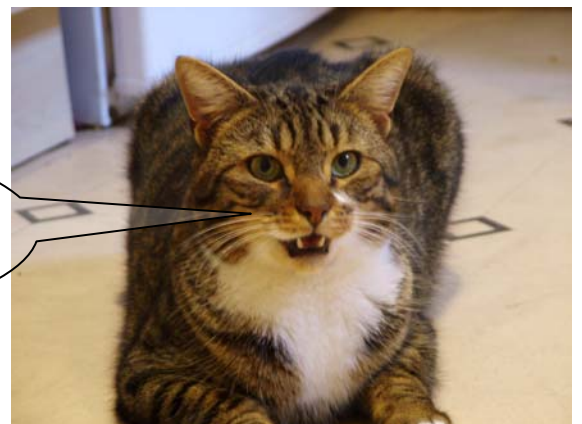
Signs seen include

- Vomiting
- Salivation
- Diarrhoea
- Abdominal tenderness

Supportive treatment is required.

MISTLETOE

Mistletoe poisoning is usually seen in dogs, who's stupid now?!





For poisoning to occur the animal needs to eat the berries, leaves or stem.

Signs are rapid in their onset

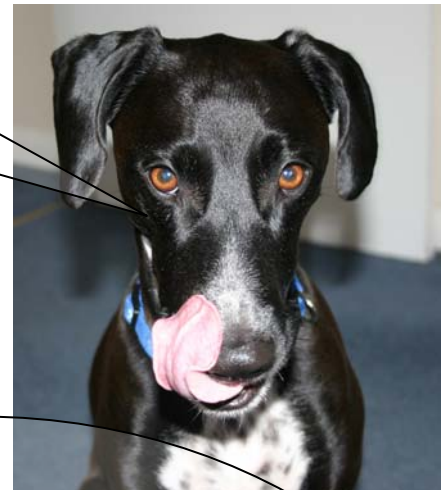
Signs seen

- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Salivation
- Weakness

Supportive treatment is required.

CHOCOLATE

Sometimes at Christmas my owner leaves out boxes of chocolates. I like to eat these. This usually results in a trip to the vets, where they make me sick!!



Chocolate is toxic to dogs

An 8kg dog can die as a result of eating 50g of dark chocolate. The darker the chocolate the less is needed as a potentially fatal dose.

Dogs are generally not fussy when it comes to chocolate and will eat any kind, including the wrappers!

Onset of signs is usually within 4 hours

Signs seen

- Vomiting (sometimes including blood)
- Abdominal tenderness
- Increased thirst
- Restlessness
- Excitability
- Hyperactivity
- Salivation
- 'Drunken' gait

If you think your dog has eaten chocolate it is best to phone the surgery for advice.

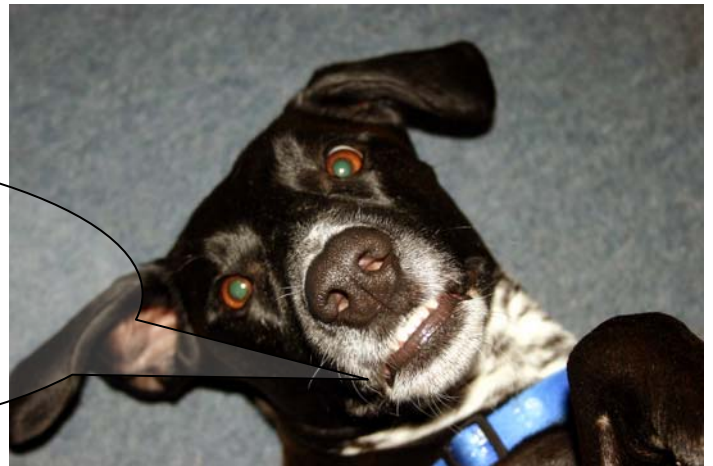
CHRISTMAS TREES

Christmas trees are a great source of entertainment. They are

- **Fun to climb on**
- **A good scratching post**
- **Tinsel is fun to chase and eat**
- **Decorations make**



And sometimes I like to eat baubles and other small decorations off the Christmas tree. This results in me going for a trip to the vets again!



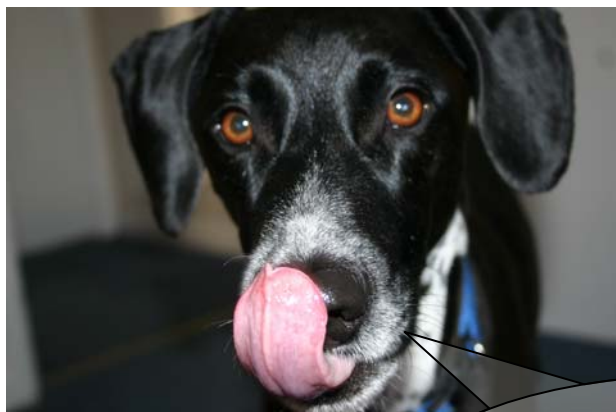
Although climbing on the tree is more an annoyance than a danger, baubles and other small decorations can be ingested by your pet and cause a blockage in the intestines.

Signs to look out for

- Vomiting
- Straining to pass faeces
- Off colour



TURKEY BONES



**Mmmm Turkey.
We LOVE TURKEY.**



Sharing a bit of turkey with your pet shouldn't cause any problems it is Christmas after all, but all things in moderation. However feeding bones to your pets may result in blockage of the intestines and so should be avoided.



It is especially important to buy your pet a Christmas present, however please spare a thought for animals who don't have a home this Christmas. The nice people at the vets have popped a box in reception should You be able to spare a tin of food.



Christmas should be a time for fun and festivities, with common sense and a bit of care all the above problems can be avoided. From all the staff at RHVH have a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and remember.....
...Don't have **NIGHTMARES!**



Starring:

Jonathan Pudding Esq as The Cat
Jarvis Oliver as The Dog

And special guest appearance by
David the Vet.

