



NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2011



Welcome to the latest Croft newsletter we hope you find it both informative and useful.

If you wish to make suggestions about possible subjects for future issues you can contact us either in writing or by email. If you haven't checked out our website recently it has lots of new, useful information and fact sheets to help you to help your pet. We would also appreciate some pictures of your pets for our pets page and with the festive season upon us there are lots of lovely photo opportunities – so get snapping!

www.croftvets.co.uk

We would like to wish all of our clients and their pets a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We have decided not to send out Christmas cards but instead to donate the money to charity.

The charity we have chosen is **Send a Cow** which helps African families out of poverty by providing livestock, training and support.

Further details can be found at www.sendacow.org.uk and in future newsletters.



Sweet Temptations

One of the best things about Christmas is the opportunity to indulge in all our favourite food and drink – often to excess. It is tempting to allow our family pets to join in with us as we eat our way through the festive season and there are more tasty morsels left lying around waiting for a hungry mouth at this time of year. Unfortunately overindulgence can result in a trip to the vets for our dogs and cats as many things we eat can be poisonous to them and one of the worst offenders is chocolate. Chocolate is made from Cacao beans and it is a substance called theobromine (similar to caffeine) present in chocolate which makes it poisonous. Humans can break down and excrete

theobromine very efficiently which is why its not harmful to us, but if ingested in the right quantity it can be toxic and even fatal for our pets. Dogs are most commonly affected due to their ability to find tasty things to eat and the **'sweet tooth'** they seem to have. Dark chocolate and cocoa powder contain much higher quantities of theobromine than white or milk chocolate so even small amounts can result in a very sick animal. Although there is no 'antidote', prompt veterinary attention can alleviate some of the worst effects of chocolate ingestion. **Better still is to keep all chocolate goodies out of reach!**

Recommend a friend and get £5.00 off*

If you are an existing client of our practice and are happy to recommend us to your friends, we would be grateful.

Simply complete part A and give it to a friend.

Your friend should complete part B and bring the form with them when they visit the surgery to get £5* off.

To say thanks we will send you a £5 voucher* to use in the practice too!

It's that simple!



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Good News for those wanting to take a pet abroad
The Pet Travel Scheme rules are due to change on 1st January 2012 when the UK brings its procedures into line with the European Union.

Under the old rules, which still apply until December 31st 2011, animals have to be microchipped, rabies-vaccinated and then bloodtested to make sure the vaccine has given a satisfactory level of protection.

A pet passport is issued and only then can they re-enter the UK 6 months after the date of the blood test.

While tick control prior to returning to the UK will also no longer be necessary, it is likely that dogs and cats will still have to be treated for tapeworms before returning to the UK.

REMEMBER the new Pet Travel Scheme rules do not come into force until 1st January 2012. In the meantime, if you need to find out more, please contact us on 0191 250 3800 or visit www.defra.gov.uk.

From January 1st 2012 however, while all pet dogs, cats and ferrets must be microchipped and rabies-vaccinated, a blood test will no longer be required and animals can re-enter the UK 21 days after the date of the rabies vaccine. A pet passport will still need to be issued.

Taking pets abroad can expose them to a number of diseases not currently commonly found in the UK, not just rabies, so it is important to discuss any travel plans involving your animals with one of our vets who will be more than happy to advise you.

Coming to a Street near You!

You can now find us on Bridge End in Chester-le-Street and at New Market in Morpeth - feel free to drop in and have a chat! Visit www.croftvets.co.uk for directions and opening times.



CROFT
VETERINARY SURGEONS



A

Name				
Address				
Postcode	Phone	Email		

B

Name				
Address				
Postcode	Phone	Email		