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### **BENTLEIGH VETERINARY CLINIC WISH YOU A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**

We want to thank you, our very loyal clients, and friends, for all your support over the last year. The year 2020 will go down in history as one of the most turbulent, testing times in modern history. Your patience with the COVID-19 restrictions has been much appreciated. While we battled to continue our service as we adapted to the new normal, your support was amazing and did not go unnoticed. We salute you and want to shout out our thanks for your co-operation and loyalty. May your Christmas be full of joy, health, and happiness.



## **BENTLEIGH Veterinary Clinic.**

Due to all that has happened this year, 2020 will go down as the year that changed the world. The worldwide lockdowns and the restrictions for travel ensured that we remained grounded and at home. The face of business was changed as many people elected to work from home, while schools closed their doors for what seemed an intermittently long time. Between the debate about facemasks and adapting to change, the one constant thing that never altered was our devoted pets. They adjusted quickly to having their owners at home for longer, while their funny antics gave us pause to smile. Animals adapt quickly to life, accepting what it dishes up as they get on with living. Thank goodness to our quirky furry or feathered friends – they make us smile even through the toughest times. Enjoy the Christmas break, and take time out to appreciate your loved ones – especially those crazy fur or feathered friends who just want to be with you.

### **FOOD YOU CAN'T SHARE WITH YOUR PETS THIS CHRISTMAS.**

Christmas is a time of good cheer, presents galore and of course – great food! But some human food is not good for your pet, it can make them sick or it can even be fatal.

#### **Beware of these foods**

- Chocolate – especially the dark chocolate, cocoa powder.
  - Drinks containing caffeine e.g. energy drinks, coffee or even tea.
  - Grapes, raisins, or large amounts of dairy food and very salty food.
  - Nuts – including walnuts, pecans, pistachios, and macadamias.
  - Corn on the cob – this can lead to gut blockages.
  - Avocados and very fatty food such as ham or turkey.
  - Xylitol – an artificial sweetener found in many sweets or diet foods.
  - Cooked bones – they are impossible to digest or they can splinter.
  - Onions, leeks, and chives.
  - Alcohol.
- Some festive fare can cause serious illness. Keep some special pet treats for your furry friends and do not give into those pleading looks they will throw your way. Any food that is accessible may be open to a pet attack. Protect them from themselves, keep food out of reach or securely covered.

### **MANAGING YOUR PET ON CHRISTMAS DAY.**

Christmas is busy and chaotic, but amidst the madness it is important for you to spare some time for your pets who do not understand what all the fuss is about. On the big day, watch your pet closely to see how they are coping, especially around excited children or people they do not really know.

If your dog starts licking their lips, shows the whites of their eyes, or turns their head away when a child or an adult is patting them, intervene immediately. These are the signs that your dog is expressing stress so take them away to a special 'safe place' where they can relax. Put some soft music on for them and give them a toy full of treats to engage with to allow them to overcome their stress and relax. Check on them regularly but keep strangers away from them.

Having a safe, quiet place for your pet to retreat away from the party will help them to overcome their anxiety and will avoid the risk of any confrontations. Your cat may like a cardboard box hideout where they can escape all the excitement. Any deviation from their normal routine can upset a normally happy pet.

**JUST A REMINDER – NEVER EVER leave your pets alone in a parked car. Temperatures rise rapidly and can be fatal for an animal.** The heat inside a hot vehicle can *kill in under 6 minutes!*

MERRY CHRISTMAS



### A Little Touch of Humor

What do you get if you cross a bell with a skunk?

A. Jingle Smells!

What is green, covered in tinsel, and goes ribbet ribbet?

A. Mistle-toad.

### DENTAL CARE OVER XMAS.

All that extra food, the new toys, and the games and fun times can wreak havoc on your dog or cat's teeth. A stinky breath is usually a dead giveaway that they have a dental problem. Dental decay can lead to more serious health problems, so bring your pet in for a [dental examination](#) regularly. Choose toys wisely; a flexible rubber chew is better than a solid inflexible one that can break teeth or injure the gums.



If you are hosting Xmas, exercise your dog or play with your cat before the guest arrivals. This will burn off their excess energy and keep them calm.

## Bentleigh Veterinary Clinic will be closed from the 24<sup>th</sup> December It will reopen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

### Bentleigh NEWS!

Dr Amy Fletcher will be leaving Bentleigh Veterinary Clinic after two years with us, to further develop her surgical skills at a large hospital. She has been a valued member of our team and the joy she brings, and her great smile, will be missed by all. Her passion for animal health and welfare has been inspiring to both the team here at Bentleigh, and to our great clients. We wish her all the very best for her new career.

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### GIFTS FOR YOUR PETS.

Your pets are an essential part of your family and as such, they deserve to be added to your Christmas gift list. It does not have to be a lot, just a new toy or some special treats so that they can enjoy Christmas day too.

#### Gifts for dogs.

- A new squeaky buddy – a soft toy with an entertaining squeak.
- Classic Xmas bandana – dress them up in style!
- A child's paddling pool – your dog will live in it during summer.
- Rope toys – tough, durable, and fun.
- An interactive treat ball – fill with treats then let Rover figure out how to get the treats!
- Bully sticks – alternative to rawhide and made from high quality beef.
- Interactive ball thrower for dogs, expensive (over \$100) but a lot of fun.
- A new bed, a new collar or harness, or a classic soft touch frisbee!
- A gift box full of treats, squeaky toys, balls and all the cool stuff dogs love!!

#### Do not forget Kitty! Gifts for Cats.

- How about a nice, fresh bowl of cat grass for them to nibble on?
- A Kong refillable catnip toy.
- A flower water fountain so they can enjoy fresh water when they want it.
- A new climbing tower to play on or perhaps a new scratching post?
- An interactive butterfly wand to flick and play with kitty.
- Catnip bubbles for cats – great for your kitty to chase and catch.
- Cat rubber interactive toy – great for cleaning their teeth as they chew.
- A new collar with a fancy name tag, or perhaps a new bowl.
- Or the electric moving fish toys that flips, flops, and wiggles its way around the floor! These are so realistic that your cat will love attacking it!
- Treats – a mix of dried treats and perhaps a small tin of their favourite fish?

Your pet would be happy with just a box and some wrapping paper, if they can be with you. But give them a special treat this Christmas to show them how special they are to you.

**WISHING YOU A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS FULL OF LOVE & GOOD CHEER.**