

## Contact Details

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The friendly team with over 50 years of veterinary experience wish everyone

## A Very Merry Christmas



Thanks for all your support over the last year. We wish you all the best for Christmas and the NEW Year!

## THINKING OF GIVING THE KIDS A PET?

With Christmas Day not so far away, the pleas from the children to have a pet can be hard to resist. But consider this option very carefully, as a pet is a lifelong commitment. Young pets need a lot of time as being separated from their mother can be stressful. Will there be someone at home to keep them company and offer them cuddles and love? Then there are health costs, vaccinations, and other medical requirements. If you are confident this is the right choice, then please book a FREE 'new pet' health check with our Vets for ultimate piece of mind.



**BENTLEIGH**  
VETERINARY CLINIC  
for healthier + happier pets

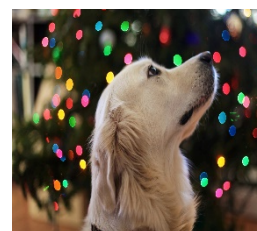
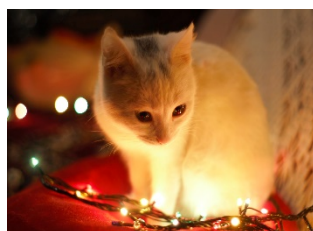


Welcome to our **DECEMBER 2018** Newsletter



*Wishing all our loyal clients and suppliers a very MERRY CHRISTMAS – enjoy and stay safe!*

Only days now until Christmas, with all the festive fun and cheer. Your children will be getting excited, while you are rushed off your feet trying to get everything done for the big day! Remember to cater to your pets as well and ensure they have had all their vaccinations for the summer season. As children and pets play and enjoy the outdoors, those fleas, ticks and other nasties are planning for their summer vacation ... on your pet (and your children)! Call us today and then you can 'tick' this task off your list.



**PROTECT YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE FROM YOUR PETS!** When you put your Christmas tree up, leave it undecorated for the first three days and allow your pets to get used to it. Keep it away from furniture or any shelving that your cat can launch itself from into the tree. Use fishing line to tie the tree to the wall or to secure it in position and weight the base to prevent it being pushed over. Hang delicate ornaments to the upper most branches and secure tightly. Leave edible decorations off the tree – it's just asking for trouble having chocolate Santa's, popcorn or candy canes attached. Tuck in the lights and if possible, keep them away from the very bottom of the tree. Tape down any cords that run across the floor or if you have carpet, purchase some tough pvc pipe to run them through to discourage chewing. Tinsel is pretty, but it is dangerous for pets. They love to play and eat it which can cause intestinal obstructions that can be fatal. Artificial snow is also bad for pets, it can cause serious problems if ingested. Angel hair, garlands, mistletoe, holly berries and poinsettia plants are all toxic to pets. Real trees can be poisonous to pets as well, while chewing the needles can cause intestinal problems. To prevent adventurous pets, spray the tree and ornaments with a scent repellent that you can buy from the pet store. Many pets dislike a citrus-based scent which is a deterrent to them and is nice for us. Apple cider vinegar works as well. Use spiky mats in under the tree as cats and dogs dislike walking on these. And keep plenty of toys on hand to keep your pets distracted. When you are going out, lock them out of the Christmas tree room. Prevention is better than any cure.

**Our information packed website for healthier + happier pets is;**  
<https://www.bentleighvet.com.au/>

**Christmas morning - it's going to be a busy day.** Take your dog (and children) out for an early morning walk, before the present opening begins. Work off their energy. For cats, get them busy chasing toy mice or running up and down a climbing frame for food. Exhaust them before the fun begins, it will make life on the day so much easier. Then relax and let everyone open their presents, pets included!



## FINANCIAL WOES AT CHRISTMAS?

With so much to purchase and costs for food and travel skyrocketing during December, you may be tempted to cut costs on pet care. But that can only lead to a larger expense down the track. Talk to us as we can offer interest free repayments over a 12-month timeframe. Another option is low monthly payments for pet insurance. Take the hassle out of the festive season and talk to us about how to have your Christmas cake and eat it too!

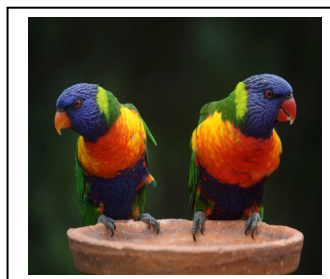
## Bentleigh Veterinary Clinic

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## PET FOOD SAFETY TIPS - from the Bentleigh Team members!

**Dr David Stasiuk** reminds all readers that Christmas is a time of plenty. Plenty of food, plenty of snacks and plenty of opportunity for sneaky pets to snatch some human food treats while no one is watching! **Dr Mark Mackie** warns about the dangers of chocolate which is toxic to our pets. Theobromine is a bitter alkaloid that gives chocolate its flavour, but pets cannot process it as we can. In large amounts, it can bring on a heart attack with fatal consequences. **Dr Felicity Smithers** advises you to check the labels of any human food as artificial sweeteners such as Xylitol are dangerous to pets. Even in small amounts, it can cause vomiting, stumbling and seizures! **Nurse Erin** adds that even healthy treats such as grapes, raisins and sultanas are toxic to animals and can cause liver damage. And Macadamia nuts – which we all love and are often covered in chocolate – are a double whammy for pets causing shaking, trouble with walking and heart issues in your beloved fur baby. About now you may be wondering well what do I feed them? **Nurse Belinda** recommends peanut butter (just check the label to see it doesn't have artificial sweetener), cooked chicken meat, carrots, and non-fat unsweetened yoghurt as a few treats because Christmas is for pets too and they love their food! **Nurse Cassie** adds that cooked pumpkin is a delicious treat for your pet, as is tuna (cats love this stuff), sweet potato cooked and mashed, green beans, and slices of apple (remove the seeds as they contain cyanide). The main thing is to keep all those awesome smelling harmful foods well out of reach of your pet. Be warned, while you relax, they may be hatching a plan to rob the pantry! Avoid disaster at Christmas by being vigilant and keeping your pet safe from themselves!

**Please check out our regularly updated of information.**



**Facebook page – it is and covers a wealth**

<https://www.facebook.com/bentleighvet/>

**Summer Time Pet Healthcare** With the hot weather now upon us, so too are the associated pet health risks. The heat of summer makes parasites and pests more active, and of course your pets are going to be outdoors exploring the yard and getting into all sorts of things. It is important to worm your pets, and to protect them against fleas and ticks. These almost invisible pests can wreck

havok on pet health, from mere irritation to serious health risks. Keep in mind that children are on holiday soon, and they will be outdoors playing with their pets. To prevent them getting the same health hazards, treat your pets now. Prevention is always the easiest option.

### Laugh of the day.



Q. What do you call a cat on the beach at Christmas? A. *Sandy Paws!*

Q. What do Reindeer always say before telling you a joke? A. *This one will 'sleigh' you...*

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS & A Happy NEW YEAR.**