

# BENTLEIGH VETERINARY CLINIC

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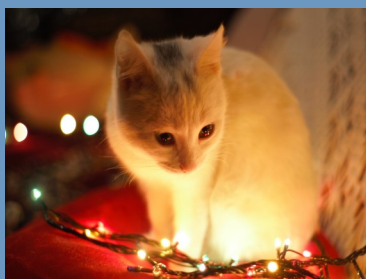


**BENTLEIGH**  
VETERINARY CLINIC  
for healthier + happier pets

## BEWARE THE PET WHO LIKES TO 'HELP' REORGANISE THE DECORATIONS.

Christmas is a very special time of the year. Those sparkly tree decorations that move in the breeze—they are so tempting for your cat or dog to investigate. The Christmas tree will be tested so make sure you secure your tree to the wall, ceiling, window or something solid so it doesn't come crashing down late at night (when kitty is at their most active)! Because the tree is something new in the house, pets will be drawn like a moth to the light by all those sparkling objects that are decorating the tree. It is only natural for a cat to want to climb the tree, and for dogs to grab objects and pull them off for a closer look. Supervise the tree until they get bored with it. With luck they will get over their fascination but it might pay to close them out of the room when you are outside or going shopping.

Pets with time on their paws can get into a lot of mischief!



## A Touch of Humour.

What's green, covered in tinsel and goes ribbet ribbet?

A. Mistle-toad.

*The Team at Bentleigh Would Like to Wish All Our  
Clients, Friends, & Fur or Feather Companion*

## A Very Merry Christmas



Thanks for all your fabulous support. We are looking forward to serving you next year and trust you will enjoy the coming holidays with family and pets—keep well our friends.

**Happy Holidays!** Christmas is a lovely time of the year. It is nice to catch up with family and friends, have a few days off to relax, and have the time to spend with your fur babies. Your fur or feathered friend will enjoy having you home, and will appreciate any extra special attention that you can give them. Long early morning walks with your dog will keep you both fit and healthy, while your cat will enjoy racing and attacking a feathered toy that you can flit around for them. We are into the hot weather now, so make sure your pets have plenty of water to hydrate themselves. Perhaps a few ice cubes in the bowl will be a special treat? During the holidays is a perfect time to make plans for the new year ahead. Who knows in these uncertain times what will challenge us over the next year, but if we all plan to support each other and check on our friends and neighbour's, we will be fine. So from all of us, to all of you, have a wonderful and happy Christmas!!

***"Christmas gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us."***

We have ADDED an extra page with our Christmas opening hours for your convenience. It also includes the foods your pets should never be fed. Dogs and cats are sneaky, and they will pinch a treat from under your nose if they think they can get away with it. Happy Holidays Everyone. We look forward to being of service in the New YEAR.

*Keep in touch and follow us  
here.*

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





### Dogs Gifts For Christmas.

**Sports Launcher.** Dog Ball thrower. (It will save your arm from tiring)

**Interactive Treat Balls.** Anything that dispenses treats is good.

**Cute but tough squeaky toys!**

To replace the last toy your pet ate.

**Bacon flavoured bubble machine** – It will get your dog active chasing tasty bubbles.

### Cats Gifts For Christmas.

**Feathered flit pole.** For you to twitch and kitty to chase.

**Flipping fish!** So realistic your cat will want to eat it! (Ebay/Amazon).

**New climbing tree.** Put it next to the window for a view of the birds.

**Yummy fish or chicken** . Any food is always a welcome treat!

It is important to keep to a routine for your pets. Watch your pet's diet and give them plenty of exercise to keep their stress levels (and yours) down. Make sure you steer them away from toxic flowers and plants, decorations, and ensure that they have a quiet place to retire to if you are going to be having guests. Small pets can get stood on by accident in all the festive chaos, so keep your pet safe. Pets are very sneaky, so they will be on the prowl for dropped bits of food, unguarded drinks, and left over puddings which can make them sick. All left over food should be removed from temptation.



## Christmas Tasks -Preventative measures for your pet

Make sure your pet has had their flea and tick preventatives so your home won't have unwelcome 'guests' over the festive season.

All pets should be microchipped—a lot of pets go missing over the festive season due to the changes in routine at home eg visitors dropping in. A microchip will return your pet to you quickly if they dash out and get lost.

Have a 'pet retreat' room—this is a room that can be closed like a bedroom where your pet has their bed, favourite toys, water, small snack, soft music playing and anything else they love. If the noise gets too much you can put them in the room, and make it out of bounds for guests. Your pet will be a lot happier than dodging the feet of festive people.

Don't encourage guests to feed your pets. They may unknowingly give them something that could adversely affect your pet. Put strings, glitter, fairy hair, Xmas lights, and ribbons out of your pets reach. If ingested, these items can cause intestinal blockages.

A dog bath, nail clip and ear check will have your dog looking smart. A nice brush to remove loose hair and knots combined with a nail trim will keep your cat looking swish and sassy!

**For everything veterinary, make sure you book in early.**



**Giving Pets as a Gift.** Surprising someone with a pet for Christmas is not a good idea, as it is a personal choice as to what type or breed of pet people like. A pet is a serious commitment as most cats and dogs can live up to 12 years or more. Getting a kitten for your mother may seem a great idea, but it is better to ask if that is what she wants first and if so, let her choose her own pet! By all means take her around the pet breeders to choose the pet, then if it is ready for adopting at Xmas, you can go and collect the chosen one and surprise the excited recipient with a beautiful companion. That is a better option all around.

**Pet Kisses.** Do not let children or adults grab and kiss your dog or cat. While under normal circumstances they might tolerate it, during a high stress situation like Christmas, they may respond defensively and bite. Signs that your pet is **stressed** includes **licking their lips**, showing the whites of their eyes or turning their head away when a child or adult is patting them. Cats will often respond by pushing away with rigid front legs if they are picked up. If the pet tries to hide, freezes, or stares intently and begins to growl, you must act immediately. Protect your pet and your guests. Supervise your pets at all times.



Wishing Everyone  
a Very Merry  
Christmas



Thanks to our friends, clients, and fur or feather  
babies for your support.  
Have a Happy and Safe Christmas.

The Team at Bentleigh Vet will be having a  
short break over the Christmas & New Year.

**Our Christmas Hours are as Follows.**

**Friday, 24th December — Closing at 12 pm.**

Saturday 25th December—Closed.

Sunday 26th December—Closed.

Monday 27th December—Closed.

Tuesday 28th December—Closed.

Wednesday 29th December—Closed.

Thursday 30th December—Closed.

Friday 31st December—Closed.

Saturday 1st January—Closed.

Sunday 2nd January—Closed.

Monday 3rd January—Closed

Tuesday 4th January—**OPEN.**

**Foods Your Dog/Cat Should Never Eat.**

Chocolate contains Theobromine which affects your  
pets heart, lungs, kidney and central nervous system.

Other foods to avoid include grapes, raisins, onions,  
caffeine or coffee, macadamia nuts, alcohol and yeast  
dough, fruit cake, Christmas pudding, lollies, ham, and  
sweets.

Keeping to their usual pet diet with just a few specialty  
treats is advisable.

Beware of Xylitol—a sugar free sweetener that is often  
found in chewing gum and sweets, or added to cakes or  
biscuits. It can cause severe toxicity or even death.

**If your dog is trembling, having convulsions, difficulty  
breathing or swallowing, having seizures, vomiting,  
collapses, or is unusually hyperactive get help  
Immediately.**