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Winter 2014 Newsletter

SANTA PAWS IS COMING TO TOWN...



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year. Hopefully you will be able to enjoy a well earned break over the holidays.

A well known song begins "Tis the Season to be Jolly..." and that may be true, but it is also a time when we can remind our clients that our pets do not necessarily celebrate Christmas and the New Year in the same way that we do! Feel free to share the following information

- Routine – try to keep your dog's exercise routine as close to normal. Long walks may be what we enjoy on Boxing Day, but over walking our dogs can lead to injuries or setbacks.
- Do not feed your dog immediately before or after you take them for a walk. This could cause gastric torsion – bloat –which requires immediate

surgical intervention to save the dog's life.

- Poisons – chocolate, grapes, raisins, sultanas, sweet corn husks – all are poisonous. Problem foods for dogs include some nuts, liquorice and avocado pears. Christmas greenery, like mistletoe, holly and poinsettias are also toxic.
- Xmas trees – lights – decorations –tinsel and sharp pine needles are all potential hazards if dogs try to play with, or chew, their way through electrical wiring.
- Rich food at Christmas time can be tantalising for dogs if left within their reach – remember that the bones of your turkey, cooked or uncooked, represent a choke hazard as they splinter. Keep the turkey out of their reach!
- If it snows or freezes dog's paws can be badly affected causing sore pads. Be very aware of the residual effects of antifreeze/salt on the roads....highly poisonous to dogs and fatal.

[NARCH – REVISED AND REPRINTED GUIDE TO PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT](#)

All RCHs should now have a copy of the revised (August 2014 edition, orange cover) NARCH Guide to Professional Conduct.

If you do not have a copy, please e-mail a request to Nicky Kohn, NARCH Administrator, on enquiries@narch.org.uk or go to the Resource Library section of the NARCH website to download a copy. You are urged to READ the Guide.



[AUDIT VISITS](#)

We have now begun our programme of audit visits. The intention being all RCHs to have been audited by end of 2016.

This should act as an excellent incentive to focus on bringing your NARCH records up to date, to read the NARCH Guide to Professional Conduct and to carry out a review of your own business practices including a review of your premises with Health and Safety and cleanliness as a priority before the auditors visit.

YOUR NARCH RECORD AND CPD

You will all be aware that last Summer we carried out review of all RCHs personal NARCH records. Some of you were temporarily suspended for failure to maintain accurate and up to date records.

As we approach the end of 2014, we will be carrying out a further check of everyone's CPD hours - you should have logged a minimum of 20 hours in 2014.

This is a condition of NARCH registration and included in the Guide to Professional Conduct. Don't let it be YOU that is suspended for failure to have undertaken the correct number of CPD hours.

As a reminder, here is a quick overview of how you can gain CPD hours:

- Attend NARCH Education Seminars, 2 held each year - 7 hours CPD per seminar.
- Undertake 5 hours reading, either books or relevant magazine articles - 5 hours CPD.
- Undertake 5 hours off subject (non-hydrotherapy related) study e.g. IT training, book keeping, human first aid course, business course- 5 hours CPD.
- Every 2 years you take a First Aid Refresher Course which will carry either 3/4 hours CPD.
- Look out for other relevant courses offered by Training establishments, local vets, webinars, dog trainers etc.

OUR ADDRESS HAS CHANGED

16, Binhams Meadow, DUNSFOLD, Surrey GU8 4LF
Our telephone and fax numbers remain the same.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR OWN WEBSITE FOR ACCURACY

When did you recently check the accuracy of your own website? Some of you incorrectly refer to your "Centre" as being "NARCH registered."

It is the individual hydrotherapist that is registered with NARCH - NOT the hydrotherapy centre. Please make sure your website is correct and your advertising is not misleading in this respect.

MICROBIOLOGICAL TESTING OF POOL WATER

There has been an increase in the number of companies offering bacterial testing of pools, stating that canine hydrotherapy pools should be tested weekly. We are becoming a target market and it is important that we are all clear about what is required. Several of you have asked for clarification on pool water testing and here follows an advice note from Keith Fisher of Meridian Pools.



“First, I would like to define what the pool industry thinks a hydrotherapy pool is:

It is a pool with warm water, usually used by hydrotherapists who are in the water for long periods treating patients who may have physical problems. The pool needs to be pleasant and safe in relation to minimum levels of micro-organisms and irritant chemicals.

The Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group advise that the above pools are micro-tested every week and normal commercial, public or hotel pools, every month. I would say hydrotherapy pools for small animals sit in between the two above pool types, mainly because the water temperature is cooler than a human hydro pool. Some small animal hydro pools run hotter, because they are for rehab animals, rather than for fitness swims, in which case these pools should be tested weekly.

However, microbiological problems should be insignificant in a well designed and operated pool, with an adequate chlorine residual and water in a balanced condition (neither scale forming or corrosive). Also, filter maintenance carried out as per designers instructions (filter media changed and frequent backwashing). But I strongly think samples of water should be micro tested at monthly intervals to ensure that all is well and will give you a better picture of the operation and maintenance of your pool.

It is recommended that samples are tested on a freshly filled pool before the pool is used for the first time, then at monthly intervals. I also recommend that the pool should be tested after an incident or emergency or contamination.

There are certain infections that have been associated with the use of swimming pools, these have almost invariably resulted from poor management leading to contamination of the pool water with pathogenic micro-organisms. These bugs may come from the user’s faeces, blood, mucus, skin etc. Micro biological testing will determine if any microorganisms are present.

The routine micro-biological tests include an overall colony count (or TVU count – Total Viable Count), E. coli, total coliforms and Pseudomonas Aeruginosa. Legionella is also another test to undertake on a monthly basis as well but has never been an issue in

normal pools running below 29 degrees.

In summary, get a test done monthly, by a professional organisation, with an analytical report, signed by the laboratory manager. There are people out there doing DIY micro testing, which must be avoided."

NON RCHs CANNOT SWIM DOGS UNSUPERVISED



It is important to remember that anyone who is not an RCH must be closely supervised by an RCH who holds current membership to NARCH and is not subject to suspension.

“Close supervision” means in the same room, actively observing/instructing/training/offering advice to the non-RCH and if required, getting into the pool to demonstrate or take over treatment.

This should be for the entire session. The supervising RCH should be fit and able to intervene if required, especially in an emergency.

NARCH IS NOW ON FACEBOOK

We have also set up a NARCH Group within our [Facebook page](#) so that RCHs can discuss points of interest collectively in private forum.

Please contact **Kirsten Foulkes** via enquiries@narch.org.uk for login details and clearance to access the Group page.

[CONTACT](#)