



NARCH *Winter 2013 Newsletter*



WELCOME to our Winter edition of the NARCH newsletter. With Christmas and the festive season almost upon us, it's time to get out the Christmas decorations and plan where to put the tree.

BUT . . . Christmas can be a stressful time for pets, so this is a good time to remind our clients of some of the potential hazards that exist. We have included some useful tips for you to pass on to your clients. We are always keen to receive contributions for the Newsletter, so do please send these in to us at enquiries@narch.org.uk

TIPS TO ENSURE A TROUBLE-FREE CHRISTMAS

Full of fun and excitement for us, but not always for our pets. What should we be extra careful about in the home and how can we avoid unscheduled visits to the



STOP PRESS!

NARCH EDUCATION SEMINAR - BRISTOL

March 9th 2014

First Aid Refreshers GUILDFORD Feb 26th BRISTOL April 28th

vet over the Christmas period? Here are a few of the potential hazards that are worth highlighting:

- Routine – try to keep your dogs exercise routine as close to normal. Long walks may be what we enjoy on Boxing Day, but overwalking our dogs can lead to injuries or set backs.
- 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, sweetcorn 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.
- Don't forget, if it snows, your dogs paws can be badly affected by snow causing sore pads. Be very aware of the residual effects of antifreeze on the roads....highly poisonous to dogs and fatal.

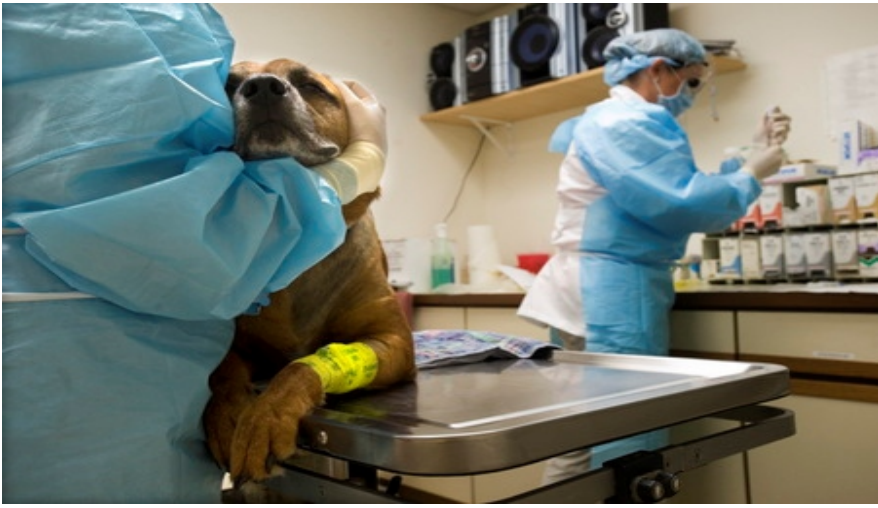


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CHEMOTHERAPY

We recently received an enquiry from a NARCH registered member who had just had an existing client ask whether their dog could continue to have his hydrotherapy sessions, now that he had started to receive chemotherapy. The dog loved his hydrotherapy sessions and the owner was very keen that he should continue to be allowed to swim, providing the vet agreed.

Our advice, providing the vet giving treatment has agreed to a continuation of hydrotherapy whilst the dog is receiving chemotherapy, is that the hydrotherapist will need to make hydrotherapy appointments that fit within the “safe” periods between chemotherapy treatments. The vet will be able to advise about when chemicals are being excreted by the dog.....this is a time when hydrotherapy would not be permitted. It is important to consider not only the safety of the dog but also the safety of the handler, as all drugs differ in how they affect us. Hydrotherapy can be a very useful palliative treatment for dogs with cancer. It allows valuable one to one time between the client and dog and overall relaxation in warm water which can help with pain relief and promote a feeling of well being due to the release of endorphins. We are pleased to report that the dog in question went on to continue with his much loved hydrotherapy sessions.

CPD UPDATE

We now have a dedicated committee member charged with the task of finding and recording CPD opportunities for you. We know that sometimes it is hard to find a course or seminar to attend, so we hope that the suggestions now detailed on the CPD section of the NARCH website will prove useful. There are several webinars and free online courses now available, a good way of boosting your CPD hours during the dark winter evenings ahead! Watch out on the website for more courses. As a reminder, NARCH requires RCHs to do 20 hours of CPD each year. Five of these hours can be from self-reflective learning....reading or researching appropriate articles and books and of course, internet- based learning. All CPD, whether reading or direct-contact CPD, must be evidenced and uploaded onto your NARCH record. For reading study, show the Author and/or the ISBN number for verification purposes. Always send us an e-mail once you have uploaded information so that we can approve it on your record, which then makes the information visible to the public.



KEEP YOUR RECORDS UP TO DATE!

NARCH guidelines guarantee to the public, vets and to pet insurers that all RCHs maintain:

- **Up to date First Aid Certificate**
- **Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance**
- **20 hours annual CPD.**

We warned in the last newsletter, and at the AGM, RCHs who did not keep records up to date would suffer temporary suspension. In the past month four RCHs have been suspended for reasons including insufficient or no CPD, no current first aid certificate and expired insurances. Suspension from NARCH removes your public listing and this may affect your referrals and clients wishing to claim on their pet insurance. This is a serious matter and we would urge you all to check your personal record on a monthly basis, to ensure that you do not fall behind.

PROBLEMS FINDING A FIRST AID COURSE?

We are hearing from you that it's hard to find enough First Aid courses up and down the country. We have spoken with some of the Colleges and Training Establishments to find out how many courses they each run in a year, with a view to trying to convince some of them to increase the number of courses. However, some have told us that they have had to cancel courses due to low student numbers. So plan ahead and get your First Aid Course booked well in advance. You receive an automatic 3 months first aid expiry reminder from NARCH. Don't ignore it - that's the time to start booking up. Courses must include electrocution, CPR and drowning and be taught by a RVN or vet. If you are in any doubt contact NARCH.

WANT TO USE THE NARCH LOGO?

Why not download a copy of the NARCH logo from our website (under the “Media” tab) and use it to show that you are an RCH or a centre that employs RCHs? But please do NOT use any other words such as “approved by NARCH.”

