



# PET UNIVERSE NEWS

The latest news & views from your pet's point of view from Pet Universe Broadview & Northgate

## SEASON'S GREETINGS AND TIPS

### Christmas healthcare tips:

1. **Overindulging** is common!  
Avoiding sudden changes of diet, especially fatty foods & remember chocolate, nuts e.g. macadamias & onions are toxic. Deep-chested dogs should avoid overeating as they can develop gastric torsion, bloat and die within 24 hours if untreated.
2. **Ham bones** are very hard, strong bones full of preservatives & chemicals & unfortunately very tasty; they are a common cause of constipation, fractured teeth & obstructions. We regularly perform endoscopy / surgery to remove trapped bones so think ahead and give Fido a healthy uncooked bone or pet treat.
3. **Bee stings** are very common especially in younger or curious pets. Dogs tend to be stung on the face & forepaws. Pain occurs but if your pet is allergic, severe swelling & wheals can develop. Anaphylaxis, though rare, is an extreme allergic reaction that can lead to death. Signs include vomiting or diarrhoea & weakness leading to collapse within a few minutes. Emergency treatment should be sought immediately.
4. **Heat stroke** develops quickly. Pets rely on panting to evaporate moisture from their lungs to cool down, as they do not "sweat". The combination of heat & humidity causes heat stroke & the effort of panting builds up more heat than the lungs can



"Wishing all our four-legged, fury & feathered friends & their families a very merry Christmas & a Happy & Healthy New Year" – from all of us at Pet Universe.

loose from evaporation. Please keep pets cool & avoid leaving pets in the car when it's hot.

5. **Parvovirus Update** – we had an epidemic in the Northern suburbs two years ago & new cases have been reported in the last few weeks in Adelaide. Parvovirus can last in the environment for one year & spread occurs in boarding kennels, parks, beaches & areas where a large amount of dogs visit. Protect pets by ensuring they are fully vaccinated. Symptoms include vomiting & bloody diarrhoea with profound weakness.

6. **Fireworks** – a great favourite for seeing in the New Year in but for many pets it's a nightmare. Keeping pets in a safe, secure setting is a must. Why not ask us about desensitization

techniques (we have specially designed audio CDs) and suitable medications.

### Merry Christmas

**Dr. Christopher Lee**  
Principal Veterinarian



**24-HOUR**

**Emergency Service**

**Broadview**  
8266 4666

**Northgate**  
8369 3111





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## EASTER GREETINGS AND TIPS

**1. Chocolates** are toxic & can kill - 450g of milk chocolate (less with dark chocolate) is lethal to a 7 kg dog. Methylxanthine in chocolate causes vomiting, diarrhoea progressing to hyperexcitability, shivering, fitting & death. No antidotes exist so urgent veterinary attention is required if you suspect chocolate poisoning. Why not indulge your pet with Liver Treats, Kangaroo Jerky or for felines, fish snacks instead!

**2. If your pets** are "boarding" over the Easter break check that their vaccinations are up to date. Vaccinations need to be given two weeks prior to check-in to confer adequate immunity. For optimal protection against Kennel Cough six-monthly boosters are advisable.

**3. Autumn** is a great time to bump up the exercise prior to winter when we all tend to stack on weight. This is especially important for arthritic pets. Extendable leads are a great way of increasing the scope of exercise especially in areas where lead-only walking is permitted.

**4. "Christmas puppies & kittens"** are now hitting the ideal time for desexing. So if you don't want to breed from your babies desexing decreases the incidence of breast & uterine cancer in females & decreases testicular cancer & lowers aggression in males.



**5. At Pet Universe** all desexes are performed using a complimentary safety package (pre-anaesthetic blood test & intravenous fluids worth \$85) for optimal peace of mind. Painkillers & post-operative check ups are also included at no extra charge. The week before Easter is a popular time for desexing as parents staying at home for Easter can give that extra TLC to their pets.

**6. Grooming** – summer cuts can start to get a bit shaggy by now so a light trim before winter or a vigorous hydrobath and brush-out will refresh both cats and dogs alike. Watch out too for matting in cats - these can eventually tighten up around the feline torso & cause constriction & severe discomfort.

**7. We are closed Easter** Saturday (officially a public holiday in SA) but are open at Broadview

from 10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. on Easter Sunday & our 24 hour emergency service is available on Good Friday, Saturday & Easter Monday. *Happy Easter!*

**Dr. Christopher Lee**  
Principal Veterinarian

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TREAT PACK FOR  
ALL DESEXES IN APRIL**



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or 8369 3111**

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