

Text for Tuesday 14th December 2004

By Nick Horniman

Pets Barn Animal Hospitals, Gloucestershire

It's getting near to Christmas and work is as busy as ever at Pets Barn. Some of our lucky clients are planning a Christmas trip away to visit family and friends, both in this country and overseas. Where pets have to stay in kennels, people are making appointments with us so that all the vaccinations, worming and flea treatments that are needed can be given. Most dogs now receive the kennel cough vaccination as well as their injections for Distemper and Parvo. This is given as nasal drops and is very straight-forward without stressing the dog too much.

Most of us though will be spending Christmas at home with our family and pets. The few days holiday will mean more time to spend walking the dogs and playing with the cats and people are already buying Christmas presents for their pets. It is wise to avoid chocolate treats unless it is special doggy chocolate as anything else contains a substance poisonous to dogs. Other treats are OK in moderation, but the best presents are toys that give hours of fun. Our cats still play with a ball of feathers and bells on the end of a fishing rod that attaches to the kitchen table.

Although there has been the usual stream of pets with serious medical and surgical problems this week, most of the pets seen at Pets Barn are just local pets with minor illnesses needing attention. Vaccination, worming, claw clipping, sore paws, vomiting and diarrhoea are just some examples of pets seen this week that don't make interesting stories for the paper or radio but are just as important to us.

Pets Barn provides a local service for everyday pets but we also have the expertise and equipment to handle the most complicated of cases. When Tom the Jack Russell swallowed a Tea-light candle, it was important to locate the metal pieces so surgery could be performed. Detailed X-Rays were combined with Ultrasound to build up a three dimensional picture of Tom's abdomen. A tiny key-hole incision was made and the metal was removed.

For information about the service we provide, please contact your nearest Pets Barn Animal Hospital.

Pets Barn Longhope at Harts Barn Farm 01452 830086

Pets Barn Animal Hospital at Hartpury College 01452 700086

Pets Barn Forest of Dean in Heywood Road, Cinderford 01594 826688