

EMDC (UK)

HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2021 ISSUE



EMDC (UK) highlights

I hope everyone has been keeping safe since the last newsletter.

With most of the restrictions lifted during the summer it gave us the chance to be able to host our annual picnic at Kingsbury Water Park.

We had a good turn out and everyone that attended had lots of fun with their dogs. I have included pictures and more of the activities of the day further inside the newsletter.

We also had the opportunity to participate in Discover Dogs at the Excel London. We had one of our committee members attend with her dogs which was brilliant and we also had some members attend on the Sunday which gave all the visitors a chance to see different dogs, more on this further in the newsletter.

I took the opportunity to include some articles about the shepherds in Portugal which I hope you all enjoy.

I have also included some winter advice to help keep our four legged friends safe during the cold days and also during the festive period.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2022.

Ana Vidal



Our annual picnic was held on the 12th September and it was a great day for all.

The EMDC UK had the opportunity to participate in Discover Dogs at Excel London this year on the 20-21st November.

In this issue I also took the opportunity to include some stories about the shepherds and the traditional transhumance.

As our secretary mentions in her report the Memberships are now due.

The AGM will be held on the 15th May 2022 covid allowing.

Please keep checking our website and social media pages for more information on events etc.



The Secretary's Report

We all hoped that Covid would be done and dusted by now....how wrong could we be! Yes, that is the same starting line as I had in the last issue, sad though it is!

Firstly, a reminder that **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS** are now due. Details of this will be further on in the newsletter. The appropriate fee can be paid either direct to the Club account, by PayPal or by Cheque (made out to EMDC (UK)). Whichever form of payment, please include a reference which should be your surname and 'Subs' so we know who and what the funds are for.

On that note, for this year we have a total of 68 voting members plus 16 children. We are thrilled with this very healthy number, and hope that we can see more of you participating in some Club events when you are able to.

The Club Show and AGM will be held, as usual, at Bearley Village Hall (near Stratford on Avon) on Sunday 15th May 2022. For those that may be interested, the day before in Coventry, not too far away from our venue, there is another show which will have Estrela classes and a specialist breed judge (our very own Gill Reid!). The Club is supporting the entry at this show, and we hope that we can encourage people to make a weekend of it and then we can have an in person get together on the Saturday night in between the two events!

Obviously, with continued uncertainty regarding the Covid-19 situation, we cannot guarantee any in person events will be able to go ahead. However, we will do our utmost to hold events in a Covid secure manner, following all guidelines provided by the Government at the time of the event.

We have a couple of Spaces available on the Committee. If anyone (who is a fully paid up member) is interested in joining our committee, and feels they have the time to dedicate to occasional meetings, turning up at events to help put them on, and generally supporting our breed in any way they can, please do contact me. Nominations must be sent to the Secretary, by email or post, no later than 28th February 2022 (Post mark). The Nomination form can be downloaded from the EMDC UK Website, or you can request a copy from the me.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and a very Happy New Year!
Stay safe!

Camille Lambert
Secretary@emdc-uk.com
Tel: 07958 549778 (after 7 pm)





The Estrela Mountain Dog Club (UK)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

For the year to 31 December 2022

Membership dues are as follows:

Single - £10.00 (adults = 18 years and over)

Joint - £12.50 (two adults)

Household - £14.00 (up to 2 adults & 2 Juniors under 18 years)

Junior - £4.00 or £1.50 if no newsletter required

(Juniors under 18 yrs who are not part of a Household Membership)

Please make cheques payable to EMDC (UK) and send to the Secretary with your form.

To pay via PayPal, please use email: emdcuk@outlook.com

(please ensure you tick family and friends to avoid fees being deducted)

To pay direct to the bank:

Account Name: Estrela Mountain Dog Club UK Sort Code: 56-00-59 Account Number: 34953582

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!!

TWO DAY EVENT!!

Day 1:

Redditch & District Canine Society Open Dog Show
EMDC (UK) Supported Entry for Estrela classes

The Sports Connexion, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, nr Coventry
Saturday, 14th May 2022

Judge - GILL REID (MILAGRE)
(Breed Specialist)

Day 2:

Estrela Mountain Dog Club (UK)
Members Limited Dog Show, Social event
& Annual General Meeting

Bearley Village Hall, Snitterfield Road, Bearley, Nr Stratford-on-Avon.
Sunday, 15th May 2022

Judge – NICHOLA MARSHALL (Drimbea) (Subject to confirmation)
(Breed Specialist)

**Make a weekend of it, stay over and we will have a Club
get together somewhere local on the Saturday evening!**
Further details will be sent out nearer the time!

Hon. Secretary:

Mrs Camille Lambert

22 Glanhowy Road, Wyllie, Blackwood, Caerphilly. NP12 2HN

Tel: 01495 201727/07958 549778

Email: Secretary@emdc-uk.com

EMDC UK Annual Picnic 2021



We were delighted to have been able to host our annual picnic once again.

It was held on the 12th September at Kingsbury Water Park which is a lovely park for us to host this event as we are able to book an area just for us and we are also able to take all the dogs for a nice walk around the trails as you will see in the pictures.

This time we also had Gill Douglas bring her obedience equipment with her. It was great to have her give everyone a demonstration first and then have so many have a go with their dogs.

Rosie and Kyle Hall also brought their agility equipment which was great fun for everyone to try out too.

As we all know Estrelas are not always the most experienced dogs in this disciplines however it was great to see that they were all happy to give it a good go.

We hope to be able to repeat our annual picnic again and to see many more of you.



Discover Dogs 2021



This year the EMDA was happy to share the stand at Discover Dogs Excel London 2021, which meant that we had the opportunity to ask some of the EMDC UK members if they wished to participate in the event.

Our committee member Rebecca Roberts kindly accepted and she spent both Saturday and Sunday on the stand with her dogs River and Linda. Who after they had their little rest from their 4 hour drive (which apparently they slept through, typical Estrelas needing to rest after a rest) were very popular on the stand and interacted very well with all the visitors enquiring about the breed.



On Sunday Rebecca shared the stand with Rosie and Kyle Hall who brought with them their two Estrelas Sulley and Cindy who were also fantastic with the crowd.

Thank you to all for such a fantastic representation of the breed.



Serra da Estrela: The Shepherd, the last of the nomads

By Nuno Adriano - Text translated from [Serra da Estrela: Pastor, o último dos nómadas - Anotícia \(anoticia.pt\)](#)

A Shepherd is a profession without a future, as the younger ones are not interested in the activity whether or not it be in Serra da Estrela. There are no set working hours or days off, but the truth is that without the diligent shepherds, the mountain cheese would not be the same and the ecosystem would be poorer.



Serra da Estrela: The Shepherd, the last nomad

They are the last 'survivors' of the formerly transhumant shepherds, those who travelled hundreds of kilometres, who crossed administrative borders and even regions; that withstood storms and hardships of various kinds, always with a common objective and focus: to provide the herds with green and fresh pastures, essential for their survival.



Why am I interested?

The historical character of the shepherd always attracted my curiosity, as I live in the Serra da Estrela region, not only for its picturesque activity and directly linked to nature, but also for being authentic 'dens' of life stories, motivated by their isolated life, almost marginalized while wandering through inhospitable territories and only by relying on their wisdom and ability to solve problems on their own when they were in the 'struggles'.

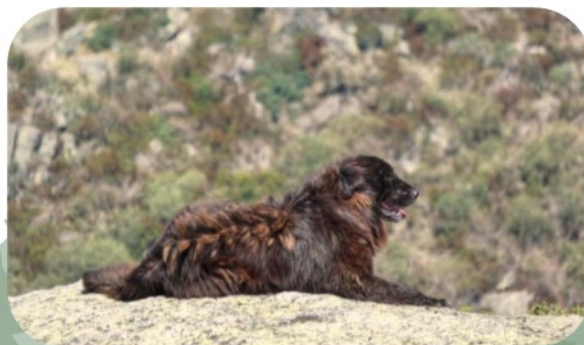
Through the Serra da Estrela looking for shepherds and their flocks...

On a typical summer day I start walking in the middle of Serra da Estrela on an authentic discovery mission, always appealing to my hearing to detect the characteristic sound of the herds of sheep and some goats. Amplified by the glacial valleys and circuses so characteristic of the upper plateau of Serra da Estrela, this sound so typical of rattles propagates in the air, accompanied by the intermittent sound of the voice of the shepherd who, with his speech, leads them through an ocean of pastures and rocks.



The dogs do their job

They notice a strange element in the approaching landscape. Its grandeur and majesty reveals the genesis of the Serra da Estrela Dog: protection against packs of wolves that, well organized and with a very complex hierarchical structure, were always waiting for an opportunity to launch a surprise attack and thus satiate their hunger.



Pastoral conversations...

From 'less exalted' spirits, the dogs accept me in their territory and I slowly approach our mountain shepherd, still dressed in some of the traditional clothes that resist the time of "modern" materials. A good morning greeting and the conversation starts to flow in a progressive and pleasant way. A panoply of themes that emerge in a burst, based on stories and adventures from his days and nights as a shepherd in Serra da Estrela, some of a more amusing nature, others of lyricism and many others where danger came to light.



Tradition that stands the test of time...

Each and every summer, our shepherd preserves the tradition, bringing his precious flocks towards the summer pastures in the Upper Plateau. His grandfather was a shepherd, his father is also a shepherd, and destiny wanted this legacy to be perpetuated, entirely linked to the mountain landscape of Estrela. Is it the life you envisioned? -I questioned. The wide smile seemed to be one of satisfaction, but the eyes are not deceiving in the slightest, accompanied by that look that says nothing but, at the same time, says everything in a clear and concise way. And then the continued silence definitely composes the 'bouquet'.



Modern Romanticism?

Interconnecting with my professional activity, the shepherd symbol and his work is also 'sold' as a tourist product based on and involved in a dome of nostalgia and romanticism. It is also catalogued as something connected to the land, to our ancestors, of great rusticity and with a strong religious connotation. However, it is completely opposite to the vision that today, in the modern world, we have of an easy life, with access to everything instantly and simply.

'Its not an easy life', confesses our friend. Physically hard, markedly isolated, even though the cell phone and radio soften the days that never seem to end. Financially it is meagre but even so, the magnet of the family legacy of this life walking the mountain and which in itself has the synonym of freedom, continues to have a power of attraction that it cannot explain. I think to myself: it's probably a freedom that imprisons...

At the time of farewell

As a good shepherd, he has in his memory some empirical knowledge of astronomy and geography. This is how he manages his daily life, where he is controlled by the sun and other stars and by the geographic features that are revealed in the landscape and that serve as guidance, such a state-of-the-art GPS.

It's time to return to the sheepfold installed in the vicinity of the Torre plateau, where he will leave the herd for the night. I thank you for your patience to put up with me and with a bem-haja a typical goodbye from Beira, each one goes on with his or her life.

These are the men who are at the root of the foundation of the vast majority of our mountain towns. They were the ones who constituted the first communities on the edge of Serra da Estrela, taking advantage of the advantages that this territory offered: pastures, water and wood. Centuries after centuries constituted a still existing culture and identity of the collective imagination of the villages, towns and cities on the edge of Estrela.



Transhumance: We climbed with the sheep to Serra da Estrela

By Sofia Cruz - Text translated from Viagem à Solta

On the day that Portugal played Uruguay in the World Cup, a shepherd reportedly smashed a radio in Serra da Estrela. Named Ramiro, in chequered shirt, burel cape over the shoulder and wooden staff in hand, he is one of the few men who, as summer approaches, continues to climb with their herds to the highest mountains in Portugal in search of better pastures.



This year, on the occasion of the Festival of Transhumance and Shepherds, we joined this seasonal movement of herds – called transhumance – fulfilling the traditional ascent between Seia and Sabugueiro.



At 8:30 in the morning, the shepherds and the cattle (approximately a thousand heads) gathered in Largo da Câmara and, with them, we crossed the city towards the mountain. What impressed us most early on was the number of sheep – we've never seen so many together despite being told

that in the past there were many more – as well as the amusing noise they made with the bleating and shaking of the rattles they carried around their necks.

At first, we wanted to photograph everything, trying to capture the best angle of both the shepherds and the sheep under a photogenic fog. These, however, walked fast and, after a short time, I was tired of not climbing with a regular cadence. As Célia Gonçalves from Aldeias de Montanha explained to us: “The sheep set the pace”. So, instead of constantly stopping or speeding up to take pictures, I was matching my pace with theirs. Sometimes, when I slowed down, I felt the horns of one touching my legs lightly to continue.



The sheep were all of the Bordaleira Serra da Estrela breed. Some have black fur, others brown or white. The face is long and the eyes large, slightly to one side. However, what really distinguishes them from the others are the long spiral-shaped



horns – those of some goats decorated that day with ribbons and coloured wool pompoms. Some also carried large rattles around their necks – so big they almost touched the ground. Some shepherds, in turn, wore hats, as well as capes and pretty burel clothes.

The best known product of these sheep is the production of milk, which is used in the production of the most famous cheese in the country: Serra da Estrela cheese. Meat from those under one year of age is also highly sought after and Serra da Estrela lamb, like cheese, has a Protected Designation of Origin (DOP). Finally, their wool is also used, although not as much as in the past.





Around 10:00h, we all had a break in the village of Póvoa Velha. The Valhelhas Percussion Group and the Sigilatta (playing drums and bagpipes so well) were waiting for us and led us to the main street of the village for a delicious lunch with ham, Serra cheese and curd, among other regional products. Afterwards, we continued up the mountain, lulled by the mesmerizing sound of the bleating and rattling of the sheep, always under the watchful eyes of the Estrela Mountain dogs.

lunch was served, followed by moments of conviviality and entertainment: we tried on Pastor Ramiro's heavy cover; we laugh at the distress of a friend drinking homemade brandy; we witnessed the return to nature of a rehabilitated eagle at the Wildlife Ecology, Recovery and Surveillance Center (CERVAS) and its moving first free flight; we listened to traditional Portuguese tales inside a small chapel and, finally, we attended a traditional music concert with the Sigillata.



At 4:00 pm, we went running after the sheep that had left towards Sabugueiro, for the last stage of the day, smiling again when we heard the noise they were making. Upon arrival at Sabugueiro, there was a bus to take us back to Seia. Tired, and with the group already a little dispersed, we hurriedly said goodbye to watch the football game.

How are you going to see the football game? – we asked Ramiro.

- We are going to hear it on the radio in the mountains.
- And if Portugal loses?
- I will smash the entire radio.



Because we didn't have the opportunity to do so at the time, we now thank all those involved in the Festival of Transhumance and Shepherds for the wonderful day we spent in their company.

Dognappers Could face up to five years in jail after rise in pet thefts

By Sky News (www.skynews.com) article published 18 November 2021

Under government plans, people who steal a canine companion could face up to five years in jail if convicted of dog abduction, under a proposed new criminal offence.

The offence is being added to the Kept Animals Bill, which is currently making its way through the Commons, after a recommendation by the government's pet theft taskforce in September.

The taskforce, launched in May, looked into a reported rise in pet thefts during the pandemic. More than 2,000 such incidents were reported to the police in 2020.

Dognapping remains the biggest issue, with around seven in 10 incidents of pet theft recorded by police involving dogs, according to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The move has been welcomed by leaders from animal rights organisations.

Chief veterinary officer Dr Christine Middlemiss said it is "an important step forward" with dogs being treated "as sentient beings rather than merely property".

David Bowles, head of public affairs at the RSPCA, said that he hopes the offence will "act as a real deterrent to those who carry out this crime". He added: "While the current proposed law applies to dogs, we are really pleased to see the government has also recognised how much other animals mean to people as well, and put in provision to extend it to other pets. "We hope this new law, which will see sentences up to five years, will help crack down on the heart-breaking issue of pet theft."

The new offence will consider the emotional distress caused to both the owner and the dog and help enable judges to give more targeted penalties and sentences for pet thieves, Defra said. It added that a provision will also be made in the Bill to extend the offence to other pets in the future if evidence supports that.

Campaigners and MPs have been pushing for tougher penalties, stating that the current law does not reflect the emotional trauma of losing an animal. In June, parliament debated proposals to make it easier to find stolen pets after more than half a million people signed a petition calling for a specific dog theft offence.

Environment Secretary George Eustice said: "The loss of a much-loved pet causes unique distress. I am pleased that we are legislating to recognise this specific crime.

"The new dog abduction offence will reflect the impact on animals in penalties for criminals, and deliver justice for victims."



Dog owners warned over surge in 'curious' puppies eating poisonous mushrooms

By Sky News (www.skynews.com) article published 19 November 2021

A rise in dog ownership during lockdowns combined with the plentiful growth of fungi due to wetter and warmer weather have combined to trigger a growth in cases.

Dog owners in the UK have been warned after an increase in pets eating wild mushrooms, some of which can be fatal.

And although a large proportion of wild mushrooms will cause no ill effects, others can cause dogs to hallucinate if eaten - while around 5% lead to the animal dying.

Michael Jordan, chief executive of the Fungus Conservation Trust, told Sky News that while the volume of fungi growing in the wild across the country this winter is average in the context of the last 10 years, it is significantly greater than the last two years - which were much drier.

He works as a consultant to the Veterinary Poisons Information Service, which contacts him when animals are taken to vets across the UK after ingesting unknown wild mushrooms - with more than 160 cases so far this year.

"Lockdown has resulted in a lot more puppies being bought and I'd say 60-70% of cases that have come to me have been of dogs who are five months old or less," he said.

"What has happened this year, is you've got a lot of curious puppies wandering about in the garden through the late autumn and summer months, finding interesting things they think are worth eating and getting ill as a result.

"This year has seen a lot of mushrooms appearing on people's lawns, as the weather conditions have been just about right for that.

"If a puppy is wandering around the garden, it's bored, it's got nothing else to do and it finds these interesting shapes and interesting colours and it has a good chomp on them."

He said some caused the dogs to suffer sickness and diarrhoea and that others lead to "a bit of hallucination".

"I would say that 5% have resulted in the dog dying, because they've been lethally toxic."

Mr Jordan offered advice to owners of dogs, and puppies in particular.

"You can't go and Hoover these mushrooms up as they'll just appear again the next day, so it's a question of keeping an eye on puppies and not leaving them unattended for long periods," he said.

He said any pet owners who believed their animal had eaten wild fungi should take them to a vet immediately.

"They shouldn't hang about," he said, adding that some pet owners "tragically" waited until the dog had begun displaying symptoms of illness before going to a vet.

"It's often a bit late by then," he said.

He added that owners should also try to take photos of the mushrooms from different angles so they can be identified.



Deadly webcaps, or cortinarioid mushrooms, are among the poisonous mushrooms that grow in the UK. Pic: Eric Steinert

An Estrela called Brondie

By Marcia Dovey

When Menna died 3yrs ago I had decided that she would be my last Estrela. My health is not great and I felt it was the right time. I did say to Millie that if an oldie came up I may think about.

In April I had a message telling me that one of our owners had died suddenly and the family couldn't take his Estrela. If I couldn't find a home for her she would have to be PTS.

Brondie was just 11 yrs old so I thought for about 2 seconds and messaged to say that I would have her. I wasn't quite ready for the dog we collected on the following Sunday. Her family had lived in Portugal and she was a rescue dog.

The family took her on and then brought her to Wales when they moved back. Brondie is a darling but her coat was in a dreadful condition, knotted to the skin all over her body. She has a wonderful temperament but didn't do steps at all and didn't do anything without a command. After 8 months she still waits for a command to go down the steps to the patio and then down to the lawn. If I'm not with her she will eventually go down but there is still work to do.

She was an Estrela with no personality which was a real shock. To start with Millie spent 11 hrs (in 2 sessions) to groom her coat out to a reasonable state. At least she could walk better. A groomer friend then groomed and took her coat back to get rid of all the fluff and then bathed her. Brondie had been totally shaved a few times which made the coat a nightmare, this is never a good idea as their coat is designed to cope with heat and she still hates the sun, it is shade all the way.

She has set most of the rules and isn't impressed if you stand in the wrong place or do something differently. She had a nasty interdental cyst which took 2 lots of antibiotics to clear. As a typical Estrela she was such a good patient, her temperament is absolutely amazing. This breed never fails to amaze me with their trust in humans even after they have been treated badly.

We are really honoured to have this fabulous primitive breed in our lives, their ancestry fascinates me. Brondie is now very settled but has no concept of play or toys which is so sad. We now have quite a number of rescues from Portugal living in the UK. If you may consider having a new Estrela and don't want a puppy please consider a rescue.

We have a UK rescue scheme that we affiliate with and we also have a wonderful rescue home in Portugal that we work with. If you may consider a rescue please contact the Secretary for details.

Marcia Dovey



Fun Games for your dog at Christmas

By Gill Douglas

Everyone needs to be entertained and feel part of the fun at Christmas so here are a few ideas for some easy games.

HIDE AND SEEK

Place a few boxes on the floor and hide a handful of treats in one box and ask your dog to find them. Using the nose and getting a great reward is lots of fun!



EGG BOX CHALLENGE

Put some treats inside an egg box and tape it shut. Your dog must chew their way into it... Messy but great fun for your dog.



TREAT DISPENSING TOYS

These are brilliant for getting your dogs brain working which will tire them out. Kong make a great range from the classic kong to the wobbler. You can make a quick dispenser with a plastic bottle, use small treats that will come out of the bottle neck easily.

WHICH HAND?

Take a treat in one hand and show the dog both fists and ask the dog to show which hand... When the dog indicates on the correct hand give the dog the treat.



THE SHELL GAME

Use three cups or cones and place a treat under one. When the dog finds the right cup, let them have the treat. Once they have mastered it you can try shuffling the cups.

TOP TIPS

Use the treats the dog wouldn't usually get in daily life, to make the games more interesting. Play the games before mealtimes so they are hungry and more likely to be engaged by the food.

Have fun!!!



Root the Estrela Mountain Dog - owned by our short coat coordinator Gill Douglas



Winter Holiday Survival Tips

By Nichola Marshall

1. Pop to the vet or Pets at Home and weigh your estrela now before the inevitable happens! That way you have a target weight for the New Years diet.
2. We all know they'll be getting extra tidbits so drop their actual food accordingly.
3. My estrela ate some chocolate/ raisins / other "toxic" food. Unless your estrela ate a kilo (or has a sensitivity) it will be fine, you don't need to drag the vet out of bed. That said...
4. Try to keep treats healthy!
5. Chop up that leftover meat into smaller pieces - your estrela will enjoy it just as much, but more times, win-win.
6. There is no point telling Aunty she can't feed the dog. Keep healthy treats handy and get her to feed those to the dog instead of half a mince pie.
7. Make sure your estrela has somewhere quiet to go.
8. Actively supervise visiting children (make that adults too) around the dog because estrelas are great with children but sometimes children (make that adults too) are not so intelligent around estrelas.
9. Despite their weatherproof coats, older estrelas might benefit from some (more) painkillers to ease arthritic joints. Always discuss with your vet first!
10. Use ear plugs to protect your ears from all the barking every time the front door goes.
11. Have a great time!



Please contact the editor if you have any health topics you would like to see covered or health questions that you would like answered

Calling all dog owners

21 dangers that could ruin your dog's Christmas

If you'd rather avoid a trip to one of our out-of-hours pet emergency clinics or 24/7 hospitals this festive season then beware of these:

FOOD AND DRINK



1.

Chocolate

Danger: Chocolate contains a stimulant called theobromine, a bit like caffeine, that's poisonous to dogs.

How to avoid: Never put chocolate treats, or presents that may contain chocolate, on or under your tree



3.

Macadamia nuts

Danger: Can cause weakness, tremors, vomiting and hyperthermia within 12 hours of ingestion

How to avoid: Keep locked away in a cupboard and never leave lying around



5. Alcohol

Danger: Alcohol is significantly more toxic to dogs than to humans and may cause vomiting, diarrhoea, difficulty breathing, tremors, coma and even death

How to avoid: Clean up spillages as they happen and never leave leftover drinks lying around



4.

Onions

Danger: Can cause stomach irritation and lead to red blood cell damage and anaemia

How to avoid: All forms of onion can be a problem, even if an ingredient in stuffing or gravy, so make sure all leftovers are properly disposed of



6.

Artificial sweeteners

Danger: One sweetener in particular, xylitol, is found in many foods, including some cakes. Ingestion can lead to potentially fatal hypoglycaemia, acute liver disease and blood clotting

How to avoid: Even small amounts can be extremely dangerous so avoid at all costs



8.

Cooked bones

Danger: Once cooked, all bones become brittle and splinter easily which can pierce your dog's digestive tract or cause an obstruction

How to avoid: When preparing Christmas dinner, ensure all meat is kept on the kitchen surface and dispose of leftover carcasses in the outside bin

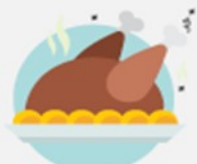


9.

Mouldy foods

Danger: Mouldy dried dog food and mouldy human food, particularly dairy products, bread and nuts, contain lots of toxins that may make your dog ill

How to avoid: Make sure your food recycling bin is well sealed or keep outside



Winter Dangers

10.



Christmas trees

Danger: Pine needles can cause mild stomach upset, cuts to the mouth and, in severe cases, even perforation of the intestines.

How to avoid: Vacuum daily and keep trees watered or buy an artificial tree.

2/5
Risk rating

1/5
Likelihood rating

11.

Glass baubles

Danger: These tend to smash into shards when eaten, causing irritation, perforation or blockages.

How to avoid: Opt for shatter-proof baubles or decorations made of pet-friendly materials.



5/5
Risk rating

1/5
Likelihood rating

12. Tinsel

Danger: Dogs eat tinsel like we eat spaghetti. It can cause blockages or, even worse, work its way through the gut and into the intestine, which can be extremely serious.

How to avoid: Use pet-friendly alternative decorations.

4/5
Risk rating

2/5
Likelihood rating



3/5
Risk rating

1/5
Likelihood rating

13.

Fairy lights

Danger: Some dogs will try to eat anything, including fairy lights. These may cause electric shock if chewed.

How to avoid: Use an extension cord that shuts off automatically when damaged and tape all loose wires to the floor.



14.

Salt dough ornaments

Danger: Made by mixing flour and salt with water, these can cause potentially fatal salt toxicosis. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhoea, and seizures.

How to avoid: Hang them high and well out of reach or avoid.



4/5
Risk rating

2/5
Likelihood rating



PLANTS

15.

Poinsettia, mistletoe and ivy

Danger: All are mildly toxic and can cause vomiting, drooling, diarrhoea and other symptoms.

How to avoid: Keep well out of reach.



1/5
Risk rating

2/5
Likelihood rating

16.

Lilies

Danger: Can cause convulsions and are potentially fatal when eaten in large quantities.

How to avoid: If you're keen on a Christmas bouquet, opt for red roses or white orchids instead.



1/5
Risk rating

3/5
Likelihood rating



17.

Potpourri

Danger: Can cause serious gastrointestinal problems which can last several days even after the material has passed through.

How to avoid: Keep well out of reach.



3/5
Risk rating

2/5
Likelihood rating

PRESENTS

18.
Toys

Danger: Some dogs will swallow anything that looks appealing, including children's toys, even if it's likely to put them at risk.

How to avoid: Monitor the opening of gifts and keep new toys out of reach.



4/5
Risk rating

4/5
Likelihood rating

19. Batteries

Danger: Ingestion of batteries is more common at Christmas and can cause chemical burns and heavy metal poisoning.

How to avoid: Never leave batteries, or small toys including batteries, lying around.



4/5
Risk rating

1/5
Likelihood rating

Winter Dangers

20. Wrapping or crepe paper

1/5
Risk rating

Danger: While toxicity is low, eating a large amount of paper may cause an obstruction in the stomach

How to avoid: Don't leave wrapped gifts lying around and dispose of old paper in an outside bin



1/5
Likelihood of harm

21. Silica gel

1/5
Risk rating

Danger: Commonly found in packaging and typically non-toxic, these can cause blockages in the gut

How to avoid: Monitor the opening of gifts that may contain these sachets and dispose of carefully



2/5
Likelihood of harm

RISK RATINGS EXPLAINED

- 1 Monitor your dog carefully and if you suspect a change in condition seek advice from your vet or, out of hours, contact your [nearest Vets Now pet emergency clinic](#) or [Vets Now 24/7 hospital](#)
- 2-3 If you suspect your dog has consumed any of the items listed seek urgent advice from your vet or, out of hours, contact your [nearest Vets Now pet emergency clinic](#) or [Vets Now 24/7 hospital](#)
- 4-5 Contact your vet immediately or, out of hours, call your [nearest Vets Now pet emergency clinic](#) or [Vets Now 24/7 hospital](#) as your dog may require urgent emergency treatment

Unsure whether your dog needs veterinary treatment?
[Book an online video consultation with our vet](#)

WHY DO SOME DOGS EAT ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING?

- They are natural scavengers
- They explore with their mouths
- Like humans, they eat when they're bored
- Binging is instinctive to dogs
- They may have a medical condition such as diabetes
- Constant begging may be a learned behaviour
- They may not be getting enough nutritious dog food

FESTIVE STATS TO GIVE YOU PAWS FOR THOUGHT

40%

increase in alcohol consumption in December



25m

Christmas puddings eaten every year

230k

tonnes of Christmas food that is thrown away

8.5m

DOGS IN THE UK

256m

£s spent on confectionery in the two weeks leading up to Christmas



420

average £s spent on presents by people in UK

2.4bn

£s wasted on uneaten, discarded food and unwanted gifts

61%

of owners let their dogs join them for Christmas dinner



51%

of households have a pet

83sq km

wrapping paper sold in the UK every Christmas

70%

of dogs get Christmas gifts from their owners



1 in 5

toxic plant cases in pets are due to lilies



40%

increase in emergency calls to Vets Now at Christmas

9 in 10

poisonings happen while pets are in their own home



300m

mince pies eaten over Christmas

750g

of milk chocolate may cause a Labrador to have seizures

5.5m

dog owners unknowingly feed their pets harmful food at Christmas

15%

of dog owners have sought emergency help on Boxing Day

Your pet emergency service
vets-now.com/christmas

Vets Now

Worried about your pet? Video chat with our vet between 8am and 11pm Book now at vets-now.com/videochat

The Club and how to get involved

Present committee Members 2020

President: Carla Molinari (Portugal)

Club Patron: Jeronimo Augusto (Portugal)

Hon. Chairman (Pro-tem): Peter Edwards

Hon. Secretary (Pro-tem): Camille Lambert

Hon. Treasurer (Pro-tem): Ana Rita Vidal

Committee:

Marcia Dovey

Gill Douglas

Nichola Marshall

Kelly Bailey

Rebecca Roberts

Other positions:

Rescue: Peter Edwards working alongside Estela Mountain Dog Welfare & Rescue

Puppy Co-ordinator: Rebecca Roberts

Short-Coat Co-ordinator: Gill Douglas

Health Co-ordinator: Nichola Marshall

Newsletter: Ana Rita Vidal (contact: anaritauk@hotmail.co.uk)

Club Shop: Marcia Dovey

Webmaster: Kelly Bailey

You are welcome to contact us at any time if you would like to be more involved with the club.

Any help is very much appreciated.

We also want you to feel you can contribute to the newsletters with stories, experiences, photos, articles etc. We want to hear from you :)

