



NARCH

National Association of Registered Canine Hydrotherapists

WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER



It is hard to believe that Christmas is approaching, heralding the end of another year which we hope has been a successful one for all our readers and their families. The NARCH Committee would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year and hope that you are able to enjoy some well earned time off over the holiday period.

At this time of year we always insert a reminder about protecting your pets during the winter months and especially over Christmas. We have featured these in the past, but to jog your memory here are a few of the potential Christmas 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 over-walking 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 dogs 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.

- Christmas 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. Also be very aware of the residual effects of antifreeze on the roads....highly poisonous to dogs and fatal.
- Dog chews sold in some pet shops ...please exercise care when giving your dog some of the chews and imitation bones that are currently on the market....some of these are hazardous and are made from highly suspect ingredients which have been subjected to chemical processes.

NARCH AGM and Education Seminar October 6th 2019

Another very successful seminar was held at The Holiday Inn, Guildford and again, we had more delegates than ever this year, making this our largest seminar to date.

Judging by the very positive feedback we received from delegates, our new arrangement of having shorter workshop-style lectures enabling delegates to be on the move between different room locations was a resounding success. We will be using this format again for our 2020 seminar.

Hannah Capon gave a very informative talk for us entitled “the arthritis puzzle and the missing pieces” and we were pleased to feature a talk on how to look after your health as a canine hydrotherapist. The talk on small pool hydrotherapy techniques was well received by all attendees and the concluding video film prepared for us by Eddies Wheels from the USA entitled “integrating mobility carts into your rehab practice” brought the day to a very successful conclusion.

SAVE THE DATE – Our 2020 AGM and Education Seminar will be held again at the Holiday Inn, Guildford on Sunday October 11th 2020, save the date in your new diaries and look out for the discounted Earlybird places which will go on sale via the NARCH website, sometime in late June/July 2020.

NARCH AUDITS





NARCH Auditors have completed over 20 audits in recent months, with more scheduled for the New Year. Aside from your treatment notes, record keeping and practical hydrotherapy technique, a big focus of attention during an audit is the general cleanliness, tidiness and safety aspects of your centre. This extends not only to the pool and treadmill areas, but also to any cupboards, storage rooms, chemical storage areas, machinery areas, cloakrooms, filing areas and waiting areas used by owners and dogs.

We are now requiring all patient treatment notes to be written following the SOAP notes format which is used by the veterinary profession. Following this format will mean that all centres will be able to show clear clinical reasoning in their patient notes, all notes being Subjective, Objective, show Assessment and provide a Plan for the patient – SOAP. We will be putting a guidance note in the Resource Library covering SOAP notes in the New Year to assist those of you who may be unfamiliar with this.

So, if you have not yet had a NARCH audit, perhaps now would be a good time to take an objective look at your premises and equipment, with a future audit in mind. The [Resource Library](#) in the Website has useful guidance documents that may be helpful if you are keen to be “audit ready,” alongside the [NARCH Guide to Professional Conduct](#).

CPD



Only a very limited length of time remains for RCHs to upload 20 hours CPD for 2019, by the 31st December 2019 deadline. If you became registered mid-way through the year, you will be required to do a pro rata number of hours, dependent upon which month you were first registered this year.

Any questions, please go first to the [Resource Library](#) on the NARCH website and view the [Guidance Note on CPD](#). Any further

questions then please contact enquiries@narch.org.uk

Failure to have the correct number of hours CPD uploaded and validated to your NARCH record will result in suspension from the NARCH Register on 1st January 2020, until the matter has been resolved.

THE NARCH GUIDE TO PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

We have updated the [NARCH Guide to Professional Conduct](#) and the most recent version dated October 2019 should be read by all RCHs.

This should be viewed as a reference point for any aspect of your day to day activity as a RCH. By reading in conjunction with the guidance documents uploaded to the [Resource Library](#), an RCH can keep completely up to date.



Please ensure that you have read the brand new version of the Guide dated October 2019.

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