



**Wishing All Club Members a Very Happy Christmas
And All The Best For 2024**

We apologise that this is not an issue of Tonkinfo, which we'd hoped to have posted out to you this December. Unfortunately as you all know, life sometimes gives you things that you *have* to do before the things that you'd like to do! However, we aim to bring you the next issue of Tonkinfo as soon as possible in 2024. So please do send all those items you were writing for Tonkinfo as soon as possible, to Julia.cmcf@googlemail.com

TONKINESE BREED CLUB SHOW 2023

Congratulations to all who exhibited their beautiful Tonks, you'll find details of winners and the show photos here: <https://www.tonkinese.info/2023-show-gallery.html>

We are very grateful to all of our kind helpers; and especially our generous sponsors for all of the prizes and little goodies that add to the day's enjoyment: - *Julia Craig-McFeely, Ulla Korterman, Coral & Vince Macey, Malgorzata Skuza, Jo Sturgess, Linda Vousden, Mike Vousden & Mary Watters.*, my sincere apologies if I have left anyone out.

PLEASE DON'T USE LASERS PENS AS CAT TOYS

Nicky Trevorrow, Behaviour Manager at Cats Protection, states that "play is a vital part of cat welfare providing mental stimulation, physical exercise and helping to reduce health issues such as obesity and diabetes".

Naturally we love to play with our kittens and cats, but more often than not the game is stopped because we grow tired of it, not because they grow tired. Regular play with kittens from the age of three weeks old is an important part of their socialisation. It helps teach them social interaction and builds confidence in their surroundings, *but it is essential that play is a positive and rewarding experience.* Play can be a frequent short game, or a long game (Tonks will happily play fetch forever), but it must be rewarding – the cat must be allowed to win. Games where you fiddle with their paws or tail, or make threatening gestures, even if you mean no harm, will simply teach them to be on guard and stimulate a fight or flight mechanism. You don't want a frightened kitten nor a physically defensive kitten that will soon get bigger and stronger.

The best games mimic prey behaviour and stir up the kitten/cat's natural hunting instincts – chasing, pouncing, catching and dispatching. The fishing wands with an object on the end are perfect toys, as are stuffed toys big enough for the kitten/cat to catch and kick and screwed up newspaper balls to bat around and carry-off.

This brings me to the laser pen - I've had a bad experience of laser pens. After about a month of using one to play with my cats (and being very sure not to get the light in their eyes) I started to get bad headaches and very sore eyes, my doctor agreed that the laser pen might be the problem; once I'd thrown the pen away my eyes improved and the headaches stopped. Perhaps you've not had this experience, but what about your cats? How could they tell you if they have had eye problems with a laser pen, not just the light but constantly whipping their heads and eyes back and forth to the speed at which you are waving the pen. When you choose to stop the game what reward is there for your kitten/cat? No prey to catch and a spot of light that just disappears. How frustrating! A recent study in the *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science* found: those who frequently used laser light pointers to play with their cats reported significantly more abnormal repetitive behaviours such as spins, tail chases, chasing lights or shadows, staring "obsessively" at lights or reflections, and fixating on a specific toy.' **Please, throw your laser pointers away and get a fishing wand instead. Give your kittens and cats something to catch and 'kill'!**

Christmas Tree,
Oh Christmas Tree,
Your Ornaments
Are History!



Caution at Christmas



The holly and the ivy when they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown...

As the Festive Season nears, the wise Tonkinese owner prepares with care, for our little friends are famously inquisitive and have no sense of caution. Christmas-time contains a unique set of dangers for cats. What concerns us specifically here are the potential hazards of seasonal plant decorations...Many plants are either dangerous to touch (prickly, spiky) or to ingest (poisonous) and it's essential to know what they are and to keep them safely out of reach of paws, noses and mouths!

Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*): Their vivid red bracts are a bright and charming decoration. But, if chewed, the sap is mildly toxic, resulting in vomiting, drooling or diarrhoea. It can also cause a skin rash (redness, swelling and irritation).

Holly and Mistletoe berries: Holly berries are bright red, and Mistletoe berries are a translucent white – commonly hung in a bunch over a door frame to invite kisses. Both berries have a high toxicity, and the consequences of ingestion can be fatal – breathing difficulties, drop in blood pressure, hallucinations and seizures are possible. .

Amaryllis (*Hippeastrum*): A popular gift, these can grow in water, or in a container. The bulbs, stalks and flowers are poisonous – the greatest poison being contained in the bulb. Eating amaryllis can cause vomiting, changes in blood pressure, tremors and seizures.

Christmas Tree (Fir, Spruce or Pine): The needles from these trees are mildly toxic to cats if they eat them. Needles can cause gastrointestinal upset and irritation to the mouth due to the oils (and, probably, the spikiness)...

Yew (*Taxus*): Yew is commonly found in hedgerows, and its evergreen leaves and attractive red berries make it tempting for decoration. However, *all parts of the yew are extremely poisonous* to all species – humans, cats, dogs, birds. If ingested, muscle tremors, seizures, respiratory distress and cardiac failure resulting in death can occur. It is extremely unwise to bring it into the house.

Ivy (*Hedera*): Ivy, with its attractive green or variegated leaves is another potential decoration at Christmas time. However, yet again, its *leaves and berries are poisonous*. The foliage is more dangerous than the berries. If ingested, vomiting, abdominal pain, hypersalivation and diarrhoea result.

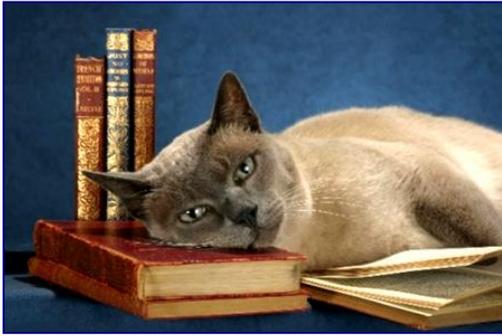
Christmas Rose (*Heleborus Niger*): This pretty, but poisonous, flower *may* be found in bouquets. The nasty taste of the petals should discourage chewing, but if ingested, vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling and lethargy result.

Lilies: A fact that most cats owners are probably aware of is that the entire Lily plant – *stem, leaves, flowers, pollen and even the water contained in the vase* – is poisonous. Even just a small amount of a leaf or flower petal, licking a few pollen grains off fur while grooming or drinking the water from the vase can cause a cat to develop fatal kidney failure in less than three days.

In conclusion, it is vital to be very, very careful about what plants we have in our houses – and perhaps it is best of all not to have any of these listed above.

In case of any accident, keep the contact details of your vet and emergency vet in a prominent place. If a visit is needed, take the chewed plant (or a photo of it) with you as evidence, if possible.

Mary Watters



Tonkinese Books with Discounts for Club Members at Christmas

Order by post with a cheque payable to 'Linda Vousden', to 12 Robinhood Lane, Winnersh, Berks RG41 5LX

- **Tonkinese Cats – A History** - Paperback, 2nd edition, published 2018. 23cms x 15cms, 160 pages with 152 photos/illustrations. **RRP ~~£21~~ £16 incl. p&P**
- **Tonkinese Cats In Colour** - A5 softback book, 80 pages with over 260 photos in full colour. Winner of the Cat Writers Association 'Paula A Gregg PhD Memorial Award - Living and Learning with Purebred Cats'. **RRP ~~£11.50~~ £8.50 incl. P&P**

BUTTERSCOTCH FONDUE FOR YOUR XMAS PARTY

Ingredients:

1. 397g tin of Carnation Caramel
2. 200ml carton of double cream (or you can use crème fraiche)
3. Selection of fruits for dipping, e.g. strawberries, bananas, pineapple, apples or marshmallows.

Process:

1. Gently heat up the Carnation caramel and the cream of your choice, stirring until smooth.
2. Increase the heat slightly and cook for 2 minutes, stirring constantly
3. Pour into a heatproof bowl, or individual dishes, and serve warm with your fruit for dunking.
4. For an adult version you could add a splash of liqueur.



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Tonkinese Breed Club Membership 2024

Thank you to members who have already started to send in their Subscription renewals. If you're not sure whether you need to renew, check out the Members page on the web site <https://www.tonkinese.info/have-i-renewed-yet.html> ☺