

Unusual Toxicities In Dogs — by Doug Mills, Senior Veterinary Nurse

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday 8am-6.15pm

Saturday 8am-5pm

Sunday 9am-5pm (Closed 12.30-1.30pm)

All consultations by appointment.
Phone 62884944

Closed Public Holidays.

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There are many things that are toxic to dogs, some widely known such as onions and chocolate, others not so well known. Two of the more unusual ones owners should be aware of are:-

MACADAMIA NUTS

While the reason is unknown owners have noted signs of toxicity within 12 hours of ingestion. Signs include general weakness (particularly in the hind legs), lameness, stiffness, recumbence (lying and unable to stand), depression, vomiting, abdominal pain or tenderness, muscle tremor and toe tapping of the hind limb, with elevated temperature. Increased levels in some blood values can also be found on analysis of blood samples. The toxic dose is unknown but there have been reports of toxicity in dogs that have eaten amounts as small as 2.2g/kg of body weight.

Clinical studies have shown that affected dogs recover within two days whether treated by a vet or not. However medical support is beneficial. Management of the condition is generally supportive. The use of laxatives or enemas can aid in passing the nuts through the digestive system quicker, limiting the absorption by the body. It is important to ensure that the animal remains properly hydrated this will help the organs of the body process the toxins while minimising the effects.

GRAPES

Like Macadamia nut toxicity the mechanism behind Grape toxicity is not known but can come from grapes in all forms including raisins and sultanas. Clinical effects usually become evident within 6 hours of ingestion, and ALWAYS with 12 hours of ingestion.

Early signs include vomiting, diarrhoea, lack of appetite, abdominal tenderness and lethargy. There may be evidence of grapes in vomit or faeces and the animal may have increased thirst. Blood analysis findings may include increased phosphate, liver enzymes, glucose, and white blood cells. Examination of urine may reveal the presence of protein and glucose among other things.

The main danger is that the dog will be unable to produce an adequate amount of urine and may lead to RENAL FAILURE. Dogs that develop renal failure usually have a poor prognosis. Poisoning and renal failure can occur with grapes eaten in volumes as low as 19.6 g/kg of body weight. In one case an 8.2 kg dachshund suffered renal failure after eating 4-5 grapes. In the case of raisins the estimated dose is as low as 2.8mg/kg of body weight.

Hospitalisation is necessary for treatment and monitoring. Digestion seems to be slow, even after several hours. Making the dog vomit or the use of gastric lavage is highly beneficial to remove toxic material from the gut of the animal.

Aggressive fluid therapy is needed for at least 48 hours for rehydration and support of renal function. If the dog has protracted vomiting, medication to ease this symptom may need to be given to stop fluid loss and reduce damage to stomach and oesophagus.

Urine production and electrolyte levels should be monitored for 72 hours after ingestion. Drug therapy may need to be administered to aid in this process.

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Weston Creek Veterinary Hospital
200 Badimara Street
Waramanga. ACT 2611

Phone: 62884944

Fax: 62889190

Email: feedback@wcvh.com.au

New Faces At Weston Creek Veterinary Hospital

May has seen a few staff changes at WCVH. On May 7th, Dr Louise Jones joined our veterinary staff. Lou is especially interested in natural and alternative therapies for animals and is currently studying for her Diploma in Animal Naturopathy through the Australasian College of Natural Therapies. A 2002 BVSc graduate of the University of Sydney, Lou has recently moved back to Canberra from Melbourne and we are very happy to have her join our team.

Also joining the staff on 7th May was Senior Veterinary Nurse, Doug Mills. Doug has been involved in veterinary nursing for 15 years, with a special interest in emergency and critical care surgery. Doug's experience and enthusiasm for his vocation makes him a very valuable addition to the nursing team at WCVH.

Most recently, 28th May, Debbie Fergus joined the team on our reception desk. Debbie is another returnee to Canberra after 6 years in the Victorian countryside. Welcome Debbie!



We also say 'Hasta La Vista!' to Kylie Murton who departs our reception desk for 12 months maternity leave on 8 June 2007.

Good luck and good health!

Profender Spot-On—Easy, Stress Free Worming For Your Cat - by Karen Whinray, Veterinary Nurse



Worming a cat easy and stress free?

How can that be?

Tell me more!

Profender Spot-On is a new broad spectrum intestinal worming treatment for cats that is applied as a liquid which is squeezed onto the skin at the back of your cat's neck. No more getting bitten or scratched when you try to pop that pill down your darling moggy's throat, only to have it come back out and to have to try to get it in again.

Profender protects your cat from hookworms, tapeworms, and roundworms in one easy treatment killing all stages of the

worms. It contains two active ingredients – emodepside and praziquantel – which are quickly absorbed through the skin into the bloodstream, then travelling to the intestines to give effective control of gastrointestinal worms.

The pre-measured application in a tube can be used on kittens from 8 weeks of age and weighing more than 0.5kg and is safe to use on pregnant and lactating queens. Adult cats will need to be treated every 3 months, just the same as with tablets. For kittens treat with Profender at 8 and 12 weeks of age and thereafter every 3 months.

Profender is produced by Bayer and is available from veterinary clinics without consultation. It

does cost a little more than worming with a tablet but the extra cost could well be worth avoiding all the stress caused to both you and your cat.

If you would like to know more about Profender, you can come in and visit us or phone us here at Weston Creek Veterinary Hospital. One of our staff will be happy to help you.

