



Snippets

Small animal newsletter

Issue 24

Summer 2014

Welcome to our summer newsletter. Read on for a special chance to win with Frontline and Nexguard at Town & Country Vet clinic only. Thank you all for your support over the year and we wish you a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.



Xmas — What Not To Eat

We are not talking about your waistline! When your dog is a part of the family, sharing your food feels natural. However, many people are unaware that common foods we eat can be poisonous to dogs. Foods to avoid include -

Chocolate

A Christmas treat for you but please don't leave it sitting around—the smell is very attractive to dogs. Chocolate poisoning can be fatal—only 200g of dark chocolate can kill a small dog. Call us if your dog has got into your chocolate stash.

Macadamia Nuts

Another treat we enjoy at this time of year. Even small amounts can cause weakness and difficulty walking, with muscle tremors, and panting.

Xylitol

An artificial sweetener found in an increasing number of sugar-free foods like lollies and chewing gum, it can lead to dangerously low blood sugar in dogs along with liver damage - and can be fatal. Xylitol has been approved by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand for human consumption and is referenced as food additive code number 967 on food labels.

Fatty Foods

- the fat off the ham isn't a good treat for your pet.

Raisins

So no Christmas cake for your pooch!

Corn Cobs

Make sure your dog can't access the compost bin! These cause blockages that result in surgery.

Fruit Stones and Pips

Can cause poisoning and the stones intestinal obstruction.

Alcohol

Bread dough

Onions and garlic

Avocado

For a Christmas treat your dog will enjoy, come into the clinic for some **porky chews** or check out the **Yours Drooly** range including Duck Deluxe, Chicken Tenders, Sweet Potato or Surf n Turf.



And for Cats....

Although Loom Bands maybe fun for the kids, they are definitely not for cats. These get stuck between teeth, under gums and have required surgery to remove from stomachs!



*****Security Alert*****

When I was at the checkout and ready to pay for my groceries the cashier said, "Strip down, facing me."

Making a mental note so I could complain to my local MP about this security rubbish, I did just as she instructed.

After the shrieking and hysterical remarks finally subsided, I found out that she was referring to how I should position my credit card. Nonetheless, I've been asked to shop elsewhere in the future.



SUMMERTIME ISSUES



Barley Grass Seeds

Here is our usual seasonal warning. We are again seeing large numbers of dogs with barley grass seeds needing to be removed. The typical places we find barley grass is between the toes or armpits where you will often see a small oozing hole that the dog is constantly licking or in the ears, causing irritation and head shaking.

The treatment is to remove the seed, which normally requires an anaesthetic and to treat with antibiotics. If not removed, the wound can get very infected and become a non-healing wound.

How can I prevent this happening?

- Don't take your dog to areas where barley grass is present
- Trim the fur away between the toes, under the arm pits and under the ears
- Make it a daily ritual to check the feet and ears for barley grass

It is much easier to remove the seeds before they penetrate the skin!

Heat Stroke

Heat stroke can easily occur if an animal is confined to a car in hot weather – even with windows slightly open the temperature is easily able to exceed safe levels within minutes. Remember, dogs and cats cannot sweat like we do. The only places they can lose heat from are their mouth (ie panting) and the soles of their feet.

Other cases we've seen include those exercised when temperatures are excessive – particularly in the middle of the day, dogs do NOT know when to stop!

How can I avoid this?

- Only walking your dog when it cools down to a temperature you'd be happy to run in yourself.
- Never leave your dog shut in the car on a hot day.
- Regular access to water in hot weather is of course essential – you can add some ice cubes to keep it cold longer!
- If your pet has a long furry coat, consider having it clipped off for the summer months. Even having a belly and chest clip will make a difference to how well they can cool down.
- If you suspect your pet is overheated, give them cool water baths or sponging them down can help. In extreme cases – contact your us immediately.



Dehydration

Dehydration is most likely to be caused by excessive loss of fluid from the body by vomiting or diarrhea and is especially likely on a hot day.

If vomiting or diarrhea is the cause, we often advise withholding food for a 12 hour period (unless the animal is very young) and giving frequent encouragement to drink water or electrolytes in small amounts. **Vytrate** rehydration sachets are available at the clinic.

Sometimes with these conditions water loss exceeds the ability to orally rehydrate so intravenous or subcutaneous fluid therapy is necessary at the clinic as dehydration can be life threatening. Contact the clinic if you are at all concerned.

Bee Stings / Insect Bites

Bites or stings by insects and spiders can happen anywhere and sometimes in the mouth as insects are chased by pets.

What should I do?

- Seek immediate vet attention if there is facial swelling, difficulty breathing or if your pet collapses
- Try to remove the sting immediately if you can see it – a credit card or tweezers are useful!
- Be careful not to squeeze the venom sack.
- Apply cool compresses to the area
- Use an antihistamine cream or apply a paste mixture of baking soda and water to the sting area
- If the swelling is localised, a human antihistamine such as 'Claratyne' can be given – the dose would be half a tablet for cats and half to one tablet for dogs according to size - however this would require a prescription to obtain from a pharmacist for animal use.

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Free food container
with
selected
Royal Canin Veterinary Diet Cat
and Dog food



TOXIC ALGAE ALERT



As reported in the Nelson Mail and on the Stuff website, increasing levels of toxic algae in the region's rivers pose a fatal risk to dogs. The algae is most toxic when it collects in the shallows or near the river edge. Dogs are attracted by its earthy smell.

Toxic algae is dark brown to black. It is typically found on large rocks and stones. It is leathery and soft to touch and can be over 3mm thick and jelly-like.

Toxic algae may have a dreadlock appearance in slow moving parts of the river and may come loose from the riverbed and form floating rafts.

Nelson City Council spokesman Paul Shattock said people should keep their dogs away from the lower Maitai River, which was showing high levels of the algae.

If you think your dog has eaten algae please contact us urgently.

Buy Frontline or NexGard and WIN



- ◆ Buy a pack of Frontline or NexGard between 10-23 December.
- ◆ Go into the draw to win a years supply of Frontline for cats or dogs and a Christmas ham.



Drawn 24 December 2014. Prize for one pet only.

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TOWN & COUNTRY VET