



Common toxins in your garden

Rat Bait

As the weather cools down we start seeing more rats coming into our gardens and homes. In response to this we will often place rat bait down in the hopes of controlling the rats. There are many things that you need to be aware of before placing rat bait.

- Rat bait is tasty encouraging rats to eat it meaning dogs will love it.
- It is designed to kill. It stops blood from clotting. After ingestion internal bleeding occurs throughout the body, without the ability for the blood to clot death is caused by bleeding.
- Bleeding starts several days after ingesting rat bait.
- The antidote available for rat bait is Vitamin K. This needs to be started before bleeding starts as it can take up to 24 hours to work. As a treatment Vitamin K can be costly as it is given twice daily for 4 weeks.
- If bleeding has already started a blood transfusion may be required which will provide clotting factors and red blood cells to your dog.
- A blood test is recommended once treatment is finished to ensure your dogs blood clotting times have returned to normal.

Signs of internal bleeding include:

- Very pale or white gums
- Coughing up blood
- Blood in their urine
- Bleeding nose
- Wounds that will not stop bleeding
- Sudden collapse



Karaka Berries

Karaka berries come from an evergreen tree that can grow up to 15m high. Its berries are distinctive and bright orange in colour when ripe, therefore quite attractive to your dog. Its not often the ripe berries that you will find on the ground but the rotten or decaying husks. It is the seed that are inside the husk that the neurotoxin is found, so even when the berry looks decayed it is still very toxic to your pet. These trees can be found in the bush and even at the beach.

Symptoms include:

- Lethargy
- Vomiting
- Tremors
- Seizures
- Collapse
- Disorientation or dizziness

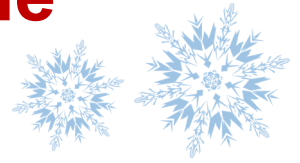
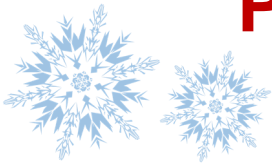


1. Ripe Karaka berry
2. Karaka berry husk
3. Empty husk
4. Seed where the neurotoxin is found

If you see your dog eating Karaka berries or there is a possibility that it has consumed them please contact your vet asap. Treatment includes but is not limited to intravenous fluids, anti-nausea medication, gastro protectants and activated charcoal which helps bind the toxins. Once the above symptoms are showing they often require intensive veterinary treatment for a few days to help with their recovery. Unfortunately this disease can be fast acting and even lead to death if not treated.



Preparing our pets for the cooler months



The number one cause of chronic pain in pets is osteoarthritis, especially as they get older. As people with arthritis are aware cold weather worsens their pain and stiffness, this is the same for your pets and their symptoms become much worse.

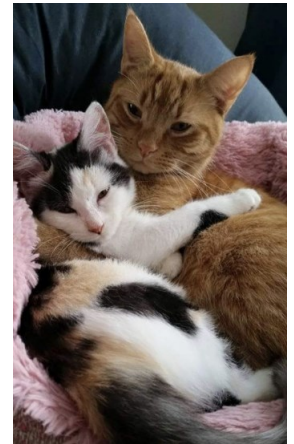
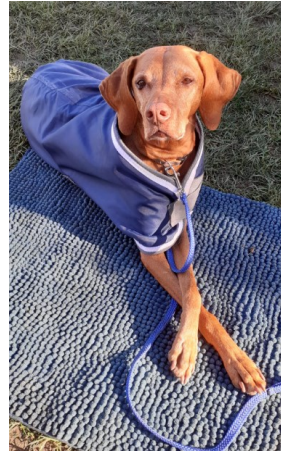
Does your dog or cat have signs of arthritis?

Dogs

- Decreased activity
- Unable to jump
- Stiffness that improves with walking
- Limping
- Difficulty in getting up

Cats

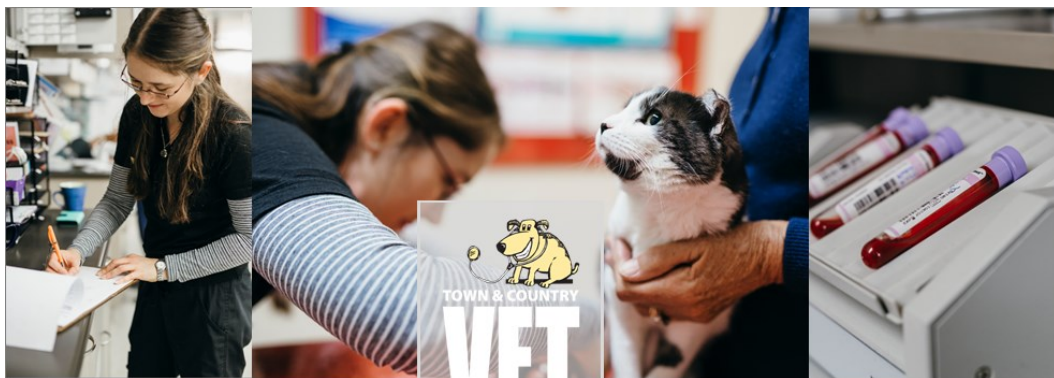
- Not being able to jump
- Stiff gait
- Reduced grooming
- Inappropriate toileting
- Generally doing less - e.g. not climbing out windows or sitting on bookshelves.



If you think that your pet is showing some or all of these symptoms, give us a call to get your pet seen by a vet. If your pet is diagnosed with arthritis there are a number of things that we can do to help you and there are also things that you can do at home to help your pet live a more comfortable life in their golden years.

How can we help your pet with arthritis?

- Prescription anti-inflammatories
- Prescription diet and nutritional support
- Weight management
- Exercise in moderation
- Keep nails short to help with grip
- Warm coats
- Heated pet bed



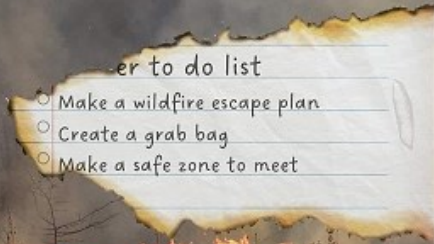
24 HOUR NOTICE FOR PRESCRIPTIONS

We ask that you allow for 24 hours' notice for repeat scripts and at least 48 hours for medication that needs to be ordered in. Prescription requests must be approved by a veterinarian based on each animal's history.





DON'T WAIT UNTIL THERE'S SMOKE IN THE AIR TO PREPARE



How cute are Cora and Daisy!!

Puppy's Cora and Daisy having their first bath at our Richmond dog wash. We wonder how long they will be able to share the same bath. Our Richmond and Motueka dog wash is open 24/7 and are self service.



Fun Fact
Basenjis are technically the only barkless dog in the world. However don't get too excited if you think you'll have a quiet dog if you bring a Basenji home. They vocalise by yodelling!



Nelson & Tasman is hot and dry
Are you prepared if there is an emergency?



MPI has some great checklists to help to protect yourself, your pets, horses and livestock in the event of an emergency

- Store at least 5 days of food and water for your family, pets and livestock
- Ensure your First Aid kit can service your family pets and livestock
- Do you have enough prescription medication to last at least 7 days.
- Be up to date with your pets vaccinations, in case they need to be housed in an emergency group housing. In an emergency the last thing responders need to deal with is a Parvovirus outbreak.
- Are your animals microchipped? Microchipping is the best way to get your animals home safely if they were to get lost amongst the chaos of an emergency.
- Check out the MPI website for the list of how to Protect your pets in an emergency.



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