

EVERYDAY PRODUCTS THAT YOU MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN ARE TOXIC TO DOG OR CAT



PARACETAMOL

- Cats unlike most other species are unable to breakdown paracetamol safely instead they create toxic by-products that damage the red blood cells
- Signs seen within 1-4hrs of ingestion in cat
- Clinical signs:
 - Depression / Weakness
 - Inappetence
 - Vomiting
 - Increased breathing
 - Salivation
 - Facial swelling
 - Jaundice – yellow mucus membranes
- Death occurs in about 25% of all cases as a result of liver and kidney failure



NOTE – Human medication (including creams) should not be given to animals unless prescribed by your vet

CHOCOLATE (THEOBROMINE)

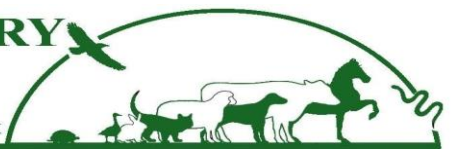
- Chocolate is derived from the roasted seeds of the plant *Theobroma cacao*.
- The higher the content of Theobromine (coco) the more toxic the chocolate
- Onset of clinical signs between 4-24hrs
- Clinical signs:
 - Vomiting +/- blood
 - Tender stomach
 - Excessive drinking
 - Restlessness / excitability
 - Salivation
 - Inco-ordination
 - Muscle rigidity
 - Diarrhoea
 - Urinary Incontinence +/- blood
 - Convulsions
- Several fatal cases have been reported



USE OF DOG FLEA PRODUCTS ON CATS

- Pyrethrins and pyrethroids are insecticides used for the treatment and prevention of ectoparasites (i.e. fleas, mites, lice etc)
- Onset of clinical signs occurs within 1-3hrs
- Clinical signs:
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhoea
 - Salivation
 - Loss of balance
 - Tremors
 - Twitching





- Dilated pupils
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- Hyperexcitability
- Convulsions
- Respiratory distress



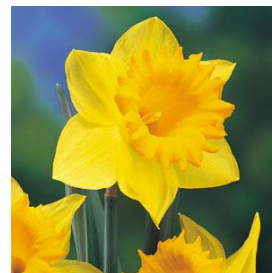
ANTI-FREEZE (ETHYLENE GLYCOL)

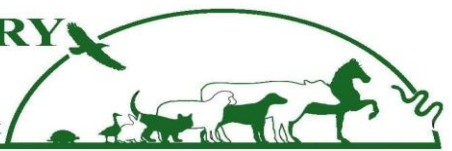
- Ethylene glycol is found in anti-freeze and screenwash – it is apparently sweet tasting to dogs and cats
- Clinical signs:
 - Stage 1: (30mins-12hrs after ingestion) –
 - Vomiting
 - Inco-ordination
 - Weakness
 - Convulsion
 - Drinking excessively
 - Urinating more than normal
 - Stage 2: (12-24hrs after ingestion) –
 - Increased breathing effort
 - Inappetence
 - Severe depression
 - Coma
 - Convulsions
 - Stage 3: (24-72hrs) –
 - Stops urinating
 - Vomiting
 - Severe depression
- Death occurs in ~95% of cases in cats and ~70% of cases in dogs and is due to renal failure
- Recovery may take 3-4wks, the longer the delay in initial treatment the poorer the prognosis



DAFFODIL'S

- Both the bulbs and the flowers are toxic
- Mild poisoning is possible if water in which cut specimens have been standing is drunk
- Onset of signs from 15 minutes to 24 hours after ingestion
- Clinical signs:
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhoea
 - Abdominal pain
 - Inappetance
 - Drooling
 - Lethargy
 - Inco-ordination
- Death is rare





GRAPES / RAISINS

- Type of grape or raisin doesn't matter – raisins are more concentrated than grapes but only a small amount of either is toxic
- Death is caused by acute renal failure
- Signs seen within a few hours of ingestion
- Clinical signs:
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhoea
 - Weakness
 - Inappetance
 - Decreased production of urine



POINSETTIA

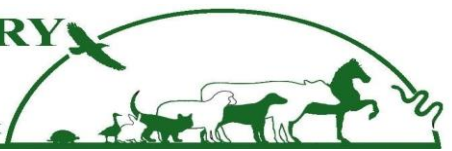
- Ornamental house plant
- Considered low toxicity – primarily irritant to the gastrointestinal tract
- Clinical signs:
 - Vomiting
 - Increased salivation
 - Diarrhoea
 - Abdominal pain



RAT POISON

- One of the commonest poisonings seen
- Newer generation rodenticides are the most toxic
- Interferes with the bloods clotting system causing animal to bleed internally and can bleed excessively with any external trauma
- Clinical effects may be delayed for up to 1-5 days although are usually seen within 1-3 days
- Duration of effect may be as long as 12-15 days
- Death can occur if treatment isn't started promptly
- Clinical signs:
 - Lethargy / weakness
 - Inappetance
 - Breathing problems
 - Bleeding under the skin
 - Bleeding from nose, gums, into urine and faeces
 - Joints may swell causing lameness
 - Coughing or breathing difficulties





SLUG BAIT (Metaldehyde)

- Mechanism of toxicity is unknown
- Onset of signs often within 30 minutes but may be delayed for up to 3 hours
- Fatal in 10-20% of cases – death usually results from respiratory failure
- Clinical signs:
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhoea
 - Excess salivation
 - Inco-ordination
 - Anxiety
 - Convulsions



ONIONS

- Dogs and cats lack the enzymes necessary to properly digest onions
- Beware of baby food that contains onion powder
- Causes the red bloods to become fragile and break apart resulting in anaemia
- Severe toxicity can be fatal
- Clinical signs:
 - Weakness and lethargy
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhoea
 - Bloody urine



- Should your cat or dog have been exposed to any of the toxins mentioned in this leaflet please contact your vet immediately with the exact amount and dosage
- They will then advise you to bring the animal in for immediate treatment

