















DANGERS AT CHRISTMAS

With Christmas just a few weeks away we would like to alert pet owners to some of the hazards that come with the festive celebrations. At Christmas with all the decorations, turkey bones, wrappings and bows we see an increase in cases of accidental poisoning, ingestion of objects such as baubles and tinsel, and side effects of over-eating such as severe vomiting and diarrhoea. Below are some of the items to look out for and why they can be dangerous:













FOOD

-  **Chocolate:** Cooking chocolate and cocoa powder are the most toxic, followed by dark, semi-sweet and milk chocolate. Keep all types of chocolate out of your dog's reach.
-  **Grapes and Raisins:** Can cause acute renal failure.
-  **Macadamia Nuts:** Raw or roasted macadamia nuts cause painful muscle weakness, tremors, and paralysis. Dogs can be affected by eating as few as six nuts and may also be affected by macadamia butter.
-  **Onions, Chives and Garlic:** Contains thiosulphate which is toxic to cats and dogs.
-  **Cooked Bones:** After cooking, bones become brittle and may splinter. These splinters may cause choking or may even puncture or become embedded in the intestinal tract or stomach. **Turkey and chicken bones are especially dangerous.**
-  **Raw Bones:** Can also splinter and carry dangerous bacteria.
-  **Fruits:** Cherries, apricot, apple and pear seeds, peach and plum stones contain cyanogenic glycosides which causes cyanide poisoning.

PLANTS

-  **Lilies:** Can cause renal failure in cats.
-  **Poinsettias:** Can cause vomiting, salivation, diarrhoea, abdominal pain and high temperature.
-  **Holly:** Causes vomiting, diarrhoea and salivation.
-  **Mistletoe:** Causes vomiting, diarrhoea and salivation.
-  **Horse Chestnuts:** Can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, salivation, abdominal pain, muscle tremors, partial paralysis and obstruction in the gastrointestinal tract.

OTHER EVERDAY DANGERS

-  **Antifreeze:** Common effects include wobbliness, sickness, convulsions and kidney failure all of which can be fatal.
-  **Rat Poison:** Clinical effects can be delayed for up to 1-5 days. Effects can include bleeding from the nose, gums, bowel and any wounds. Pale gums, weakness, depression, convulsion and death can occur.
-  **Slug Pellets:** Shaking, twitching, coma and in some cases death.
-  **Permetherin (Pet Shop Flea Treatment):** Some pet shop flea treatments can be highly toxic to cats.
-  **Paracetamol/Aspirin:** These should not be given to our pets and are toxic to cats.
-  **Corn on the Cob:** Can cause fatal intestinal blockages.
-  **Hops:** Can cause panting, elevated temperature, increased heart rate, seizures and possibly death.
-  **Yeast Dough:** Can be dangerous as it will expand and result in gas, pain and possible rupture of the stomach or intestines.
-  **Daffodils (Bulb, Leaf or Flower):** Can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, salivation and lethargy. In severe cases tremors or convulsions.
-  **Honeysuckle:** Common effects include vomiting, diarrhoea, depression and lethargy.
-  **Blue Green Algae:** Can cause vomiting, breathing difficulties, collapse and death.
-  **Mushrooms/Toadstools:** Different types of fungi can have varied effects on pets such as depression, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting, abdominal pain, hallucinations, defecation, liver failure, seizures, drooling, urination, kidney failure, heart damage, hyperactivity and in some cases, death.

If you think your pet has ingested any of the above then please contact your surgery as soon as possible. The earlier we can start treatment the more chance we have of saving your pet.

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