

Chocolate isn't always a good thing

Although many of us will be enjoying chocolate this Easter please remember the risks of chocolate to your pets. Chocolate contains an active ingredient theobromide. This substance can cause an increased heart rate (tachycardia) and excitement in mild cases with vomiting and diarrhoea to seizures and can lead to cardiac failure and death in 12-36 hours in severe cases.

The darker the chocolate the higher the concentration of theobromide present. 500 grams of milk chocolate would be required to poison a 10kg dog but any chocolate that is ingested we advise you contact the surgery to discuss with one of our vets. It is important to determine the amount ingested and the type of chocolate. If possible inducing vomiting within the first hour after ingested ensures that there is minimal absorption of chocolate into the blood stream.



If your dog or cat ingests anything unusual from chocolate to human medication please contact the surgery as soon as possible to discuss with one of our vets. The earlier we know what has been ingested the quicker we can attempt to induce vomiting to prevent the substance from passing further along the digestive tract.

Lilies at Easter

Don't forget there are often hidden toxins around the house. An important toxin to cats are lilies including – Easter lilies, Tiger lilies and many other lily species. Ingestion of either leaves or flowers can be lethal.

Clinical signs include sudden onset vomiting in the first 2-4 hours followed by depression and lethargy. Within 12-24 hours cats may become dehydrated through urinating excessively and this is the first clinical sign of renal failure. Death can occur 407 days after ingestion of the lily components. Treatment after ingestion of lilies includes supporting the kidneys with fluid therapy to reduce the impact of the nephrotoxins (kidney toxins). The prognosis can be guarded with ingestion of lilies unless the patient is seen rapidly to begin supportive care.



HAPPY EASTER FROM ALL THE STAFF AT SWAYNE & PARTNERS