

HILLCREST VETERINARY CLINIC
OCT 2009 E-NEWSLETTER

CROSSWORD

ADOPTIONS

female 9 months

Across
5. Oldest cat to ever live (in yrs)
1. Oldest recorded dog breed

Down
4. Largest cat breed
2. Most popular breed of dog
3. Smartest dog

Hello everybody! Here we are into fall already. I just love this time of year. Hope everyone learned something new about puppy/obedience classes. If you have any questions or would like help entering your pet into these classes, please feel free to let us know.

This month we are going to talk about some foods that are potentially dangerous and you should avoid feeding these to your pet.



DANGEROUS FOODS:

Here is a list of foods and non-edible items that could be potentially dangerous to your pet if ingested:



- **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:**

Alcoholic beverages can cause intoxication, which just like in humans, can cause coma and death. Ethanol is the toxic ingredient in alcoholic beverages. All poisoning problems boil down to the amount of alcohol ingested compared to the pet's weight. Central nervous signs are the first symptoms, followed by behavioral changes; as problems get worse, the pet can become depressed, have a slow respiratory rate, or go into cardiac arrest. Emergency treatment is necessary. Activated charcoal is given to soak up the alcohol and IV therapy is given to replenish the fluids and electrolytes.



- **BONES FROM FISH AND**

- **POULTRY:**

Fish and poultry bones can splinter into little pieces and these pieces can cause obstruction or lacerations to the digestive system. The only way to remove these bones or fix lacerations caused by these bones is by exploratory surgery.



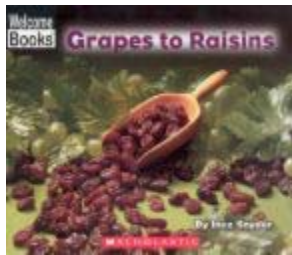
- **CAT FOOD:**

This food is just bad for dogs not for cats. ☺ Dogs' love the taste of cat food but cat food is generally high in protein and fats that are not good for the dog. Cat food can cause rapid weight gain and diarrhea in dogs.



- **CHOCOLATE:**

Chocolate, coffee, tea and other caffeine products can be toxic to animals. These products all contain caffeine, theobromine, or theophylline, which are all toxic to animals, and can negatively affect the heart and nervous system. If caught within 1 hour of ingesting we can induce vomiting in the pet to get the toxins out. If it is after 1-hour, hospitalization and IV fluids might be necessary to rid your pet of the toxins.



- **GRAPES AND RAISINS:**

Grapes and raisins contain an unknown toxin, which can damage the kidneys as they try to break down this toxin. Treatment for this toxin includes hospitalization with IV fluids and medicines to coat the GI tract.



- **MACADAMIA NUTS:**

Macadamia nuts contain an unknown toxin that can affect your pet's digestive system, nervous system and muscles. Symptoms can include seizures, which can be serious and will require hospitalization, IV fluids and probably IV seizure medication.



- **MARIJUANA:**

Marijuana can depress the nervous system, which causes changes in the heart rate. It can also upset the GI tract and cause vomiting. Usually fluids and time to work through the system will treat marijuana ingestion, unless large quantities were ingested and then hospitalization would be required.



- **MILK AND OTHER DAIRY PRODUCTS:**

Most dogs and cats do not have sufficient amounts of the enzyme, lactase, which breaks down the lactose in milk. The result of this is usually GI upset including severe diarrhea. The

treatment for this is just controlling and stopping the diarrhea, usually with medications. Lactose-free milk products are available for pets.



- **MUSHROOMS:**

Mushrooms can be extremely toxic to your pet. They can contain multiple toxins, which may affect multiple systems in your pet. The negative effect on your pet's body systems could cause shock or even death. Treatment for mushroom toxicity can be extensive requiring hospitalization, IV fluids and medications for multiple days.



- **STRING/YARN/EASTER GRASS:**

This is a big danger, especially for cats and kittens. They see any kind of string or yarn as a toy and start playing with it and then sometimes end up ingesting it. The string can then become trapped in the digestive system. The only treatment for this is exploratory surgery to remove all the pieces of string from the stomach and intestines.

Another danger of string is the string or yarn on some toys. The animal can get tangled in the toy and cause damage to a limb or even strangulation.



- **TOBACCO:**

Tobacco contains nicotine, which affects the digestive and nervous system in animals. This can result in rapid heart rate, collapse, coma and even death. Treatment includes hospitalization with IV fluids.



- **RAW EGGS:**

Eggs contain an enzyme called avidin, which decreases the absorption of biotin (Vitamin B). This can lead to skin and hair coat problems. Raw eggs may also contain Salmonella, which can cause GI upsets in your pet.



- **ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS:**

The sugar substitute, xylitol, can be fatal to your pet. It can cause liver failure. Xylitol can be found in a number of items including sugar-free gum, toothpaste, candies and baked goods. Just one gram (0.03 oz) of xylitol can be dangerous to pets, depending on body size. Treatment is hospitalization with IV fluids.

DR TIDBIT BY DR. AARON POLLOCK:

"Trick or treat, smell my feet; give me something good to eat"... OK, bad joke, but a good time to talk about some of the potential risks that the beautiful month of October can bring. Most of these cautions revolve around Halloween.

"Give me candy, give me cake, and give me something sweet to take"... OK, more bad rhymes, but please avoid treating your pets with candies. Be especially cautious of chocolates, hard candies (like jaw-breakers) that can cause choking, and artificially sweetened candies and gum. Also be mindful of the many cellophane wrappers your pet may encounter.

If using candles to illuminate your jack-o-lantern, keep your pets at a distance (for your safety as well).

If your pet is nervous- place them in a separate, safe area of the house if you expect a large volume of trick-or-treaters.

And, if you choose to dress up your pet... make sure not to force your furry friend to wear something uncomfortable, be careful around the chest and neck area and avoid long strings that may be chewed. Again- do not force your pet to dress up.

Please have a safe and enjoyable October.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Remember black cats do not mean bad luck!

ADOPTIONS:

This month we had a 10-week-old kitten that was dropped off at the splash bash. She is black and white and full of energy! But I am happy to report she got adopted a week ago, thanks Rachel Mathers!!

We also have a muted calico kitten that is about 7 months old and is extremely affectionate. She is felv/fiv tested, vaccinated, de wormed, spayed and ready to go!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

This month we have a lot of fun events going on! The first is the Blessing of the Animals at the Gateway United Methodist Church in Fairmont on Sunday October 4th at 6-8:00 p.m. All donations will benefit Animal Friends. The next event is the annual Balloon Festival at Mylan Park. Animal Friends is going to have a tent set up with some of their adoptions. They are looking for good volunteers to man the tent during the weekend. If you are interested please call us! The third is Animal Friends' annual pet Halloween contest at the Mountaineer mall. It is going to be on Sunday October 25th. Registration is at 12:30 and the contest starts at 1:00. Dress up your pet and come out for the fun event!! And, the last event is going to be Vera Bradley Bingo sponsored by Animal Friends. This is going to be Sunday November 1st at the Elks Lodge. Registration is at Noon and the festivities begin at 1:00. All proceeds will benefit Animal Friends.

RECIPE:

This is a good healthy treat that is safe for your pet!

VEGGIE BONES:

3 cups minced parsley

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup carrots, chopped very fine

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup shredded mozzarella or Parmesan cheese

2 T olive oil

2 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups whole wheat flour

2 T bran

2 tsp. Baking powder

$\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 cup of water

Preheat oven to 350°: lightly grease a large baking sheet.

Stir together parsley, carrots, cheese and oil. Combine all the dry ingredients and add to veggies. Gradually add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water, mixing well. Make a moist but not wet dough. If needed add more water. Knead for 1 minute. Roll dough into $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thickness. Using a cookie cutter or a glass, cut out the shapes and transfer them to a baking sheet. Bake for 20-30 minutes until biscuits have browned and hardened slightly. Place on wire racks and store in airtight tin.