



Dandenong Ranges Veterinary Centre



NEWSLETTER

Summer / Autumn 2007

PRACTICE OF EXCELLENCE WINNER!!!

(More details inside)

Common Household Toxins

Most people are aware that we shouldn't feed our dogs chocolate, but did you also know that grapes can be poisonous to dogs? Of course, we all know that rat bait and snail bait are very dangerous, but were you aware that some lilies can cause damage to a cat's kidneys? Here is a list of some common household toxins that pet owners should be aware of...

CHOCOLATE:



Toxic component is Theobromine (found at highest levels in cooking chocolate and dark chocolate).

Symptoms: Vomiting, restlessness, anxiety, fast heart rate. Can progress to seizures and heart problems.

Large amounts are usually required to cause toxicity (approximately 450g milk chocolate or 17 squares of cooking chocolate for a 9kg dog).



GRAPES/RAISINS:

Toxic component is unknown and not all dogs are affected.

Symptoms: Causes acute kidney failure. Dogs

often vomit after eating them.

MACADAMIA



NUTS:

Symptoms: Hindlimb weakness, depression, vomiting, tremors, abdominal pain and fever. Approximately 1 nut/kg is considered a toxic dose.

SALT WATER:

Ingestion of sea water while swimming is the most common cause.

Symptoms: Vomiting and diarrhea, can progress to more severe abnormalities such as depression and seizures, especially if access to fresh water is limited.

PLANTS:



Holly can cause excessive salivation and irritation to the stomach & intestines.

Lilies are toxic to cats (Easter lily, tiger lily, day lily, Japanese showy lily and Asiatic lily). The Peace lily and Calla lilies are not known to cause problems. Causes acute kidney failure in cats.

Poinsettia can cause mouth and gut irritation when ingested and may also cause skin irritation.

Symptoms are often mild and resolve with time.



ESSENTIAL OILS:

Toxicity can occur after oral intake or skin exposure.

Symptoms: Vomiting, diarrhoea, depression (following oral intake). Weakness, muscle tremors, depression, walking and behavioural abnormalities (following skin exposure).

Of course there are other more well-known toxins that can harm our pets as well (e.g. snailbait, anti-freeze, rat bait). Being aware of toxins and preventing access by your pet will help to avoid any potential problems. If your pet does happen to ingest anything that may be toxic, please call **9751 2999** (24hrs) so that our vets can advise you on the best treatment for your pet.



Information kindly supplied by Sarah Haldane, Emergency and Critical Care Specialist.

9751 2999

www.drvet.com.au

Opening hours:

Mon-Fri 8am-7pm

Sat 9am-2pm

Sun 10am-12pm

(Closed on public holidays - emergencies only)

Consultation by Appointment

**Emergencies 24hr
9751 2999**

Free Help for Wildlife after hours:

0500 540 000

D.R.V.C. Services

- Healthy Pet Rewards
- Hydrobath
- Grooming referral
- Behaviour / training
- Website
- Rehoming of pets
- Microchipping
- Free seminars
- Short-term cat boarding
- Full X-ray facilities
- Ultrasound facilities
- Advanced surgery
- Dentistry
- Equine vet checks
- House calls
- Farm / stable visits
- Exotic pet consultations
- Free wildlife treatment (normal hours only)

Veterinary Expenses - Pet Insurance and Payment Options



Pets are a very important part of our lives but sometimes it is easy to forget how much healthcare for our animals can cost. In times of an emergency when pets become sick or injured, you may be faced with making decisions about treatment options - many of these decisions centre not only on what is best for our pets, but also on potential costs involved in treatment. Unlike human healthcare, the cost of veterinary services and drugs fall completely to the owner and occasionally euthanasia must be considered if treatment cannot be afforded. Although most veterinary practices are unable to offer credit agreements, there are options available when confronted with a large bill.

GE Money Care Credit is one payment plan that is offered to you at Dandenong Ranges Veterinary Centre with accounts over \$300. Once approved, regular monthly payments are paid directly to GE Money with a 3mth interest free period. Establishment fees apply (\$25 plus 2% of total bill) and account service fees are charged monthly (\$2.95).

Pet Insurance is an easy way to ensure your pets will receive optimum healthcare when needed. This takes the stress out of worrying about veterinary bills when your pet is sick. There are many different pet insurance policies available, including those with cover for accidental injury only or those that cover both injury and illness. Some plans also offer an added benefit for routine healthcare. Most plans do have a small joining fee and premiums vary according to the level of cover and excess chosen. Benefits such as cover for animal boarding when owners are in hospital and multiple pet discounts are included on some plans. Most Pet Insurance policies do not cover birth defects or pre-existing conditions and age-limits often apply. However breed-specific conditions are no longer excluded on any policy (as of 09/06). Below is a brief summary of three pet insurance companies. For more information on Pet Insurance or Care Credit payment plans, please contact D.R.V.C. on **9751 2999**.



	RSPCA	PetSecure	Vets Own	Petcover
Benefit	70-80% of fees	70 - 80% of fees	80% of fees	100% of fees
Routine Healthcare Benefits	Routine healthcare option (Premium cover)	None	\$100 Good Health Reward option with every \$200 spent .	None
Maximum annual benefit	Up to \$8,135	Up to \$6000	Up to \$10,100	Up to \$7,500
Monthly premium	\$17.95 - \$40.50	\$17.96 - \$39.95	\$19.95 - \$39.95	\$13.75 - \$28.75

Choosing the Right Puppy or Kitten...

Purchasing a new puppy or kitten can be a very exciting time, however new owners need to make sure that they are selecting a healthy animal and one that is right for their situation.

- Spend time with the puppy / kitten before deciding. Get to know their personality if possible and choose one that interacts with you and is active and bright. Avoid animals that display over aggressive or anxious behaviour.
- A healthy puppy or kitten should be active, well grown, and shouldn't have any eye or nasal discharge, sneezing or signs of diarrhoea.

“Remember, a pet needs a lot of care and attention. Always take the time to think, and don't rush into purchasing an animal”

- Make sure the animal you are purchasing has been vaccinated and wormed. Animals from shelters will already be desexed and microchipped. Pet shops usually offer a health guarantee in case of illness. Visit the vet soon after purchase for a check-up.
- Do your research! If you live in an apartment, don't get a big dog! If you don't have time to walk a dog - get a cat! Talking to our staff or people with pets will help you to decide which breed is best for you.
- Avoid buying an animal as a present for somebody unless they are with you to help choose their new puppy/kitten.

Remember, a pet needs a lot of care and attention. Always take the time to think, and don't rush into purchasing an animal. Getting a new puppy or kitten will be a very rewarding experience if you put the time into choosing the right animal for you and your family.

