

# CRITTER KEEPER

*Willamette Valley Animal Hospital*

AUGUST 2009  
ISSUE 1

## Weekly Events

### Monday



#### Microchips

Get your beloved pet a microchip for only \$13.50 all day! No additional fees for registration, we take care of everything.

### Tuesday

#### Toenails

Stop that annoying clicking across the kitchen! Nail trims for cats are just \$6, only \$7 for dogs!

### Wednesday

#### General Health Exams

All issues big and small can be addressed and treated for just \$13.75 all day!

### Thursday

#### Vaccine Values

Discount vaccines for your pets from 1 pm to 5:30 pm every week! Get that rabies vaccine for only \$5!

### Friday

#### Feline Wellness

That adorable stray kitty could be safe in your home tonight. Protect your other pets by getting your new fuzzy friend tested for Feline Leukemia and FIV (feline aids) for just \$29.05!



HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

KEEP THE SWEETS SEALED AWAY

## The Truth About: Dogs and Chocolate

### DEGREES OF TOXICITY

**C**hocolate is made from the beans of the cacao tree. Theobromine is the toxic compound in chocolate. Caffeine is present as well, but in much smaller amounts.

Theobromine and caffeine effect the body's cardiovascular and central nervous systems, can increase blood pressure and cause nausea and vomiting.

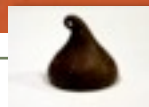
#### Are some chocolates more toxic than others?

Yes! Unsweetened or baker's chocolate contains 8-10 times the amount of Theobromine as milk chocolate. Semi-sweet chocolate falls roughly in between

the two. White chocolate also contains Theobromine, but in such small amounts that reaching toxicity is unlikely.

#### How much is too much?

The problematic dose of Theobromine for pets can be as low as 20 milligrams for every 2.2 pounds of pet body weight! For instance, a 50 pound dog would have to consume approximately 9 ounces of milk chocolate to reach this level. Some dogs won't see problems at this rate. Some may. A dog sneaking a couple M&M's shouldn't have a problem, but don't make a habit of leaving your chocolates unguarded!



### What are the signs of toxicity?

Signs are most commonly seen within 12 hours (or less) of chocolate ingestion.

- Excitement / nervousness / trembling
- Vomiting / diarrhea
- Excessive thirst / sometimes excessive urination (at higher levels of Theobromine toxicity)
- Muscle spasms
- Seizures
- Coma (rare)
- Death (rare) -- likely due to heart rhythm abnormalities.

### How is chocolate toxicity treated?

If you suspect that your dog or cat has helped themselves to more than the lone chocolate chip that flies out of the bowl while stirring, call your vet for advice. Toxicity is dose dependent. This means that the size of your pet, the type of chocolate, and quantity of chocolate all determine if or how toxic it is for your pet.

While there is no specific antidote for Theobromine toxicity, medical treatments may include all or some of the following:



The FURminator certainly lives up to its name and the picture above is no exaggeration! Many of us here at Willamette Valley Animal Hospital use this fantastic product on our own pets with results to rival the ads. Stop by to check out our new lower prices on the FURminator!

- IV fluids - to prevent dehydration from vomiting, diarrhea, and /or increased urination, and to "flush" out the system.
- Emetics - medications that induce vomiting. Used when the ingestion of chocolate is within 4 hours. Up to 6-8 hours post chocolate ingestion may be effective.
- Activated charcoal - for ingestion greater than 4 hours prior to treatment, or for patients that show continued signs of toxicity.
- Anti-seizure medications - for patients having seizures and/or muscle tremors.
- Cardiac medications - for patients exhibiting irregular heart rates or rhythms.

*Information taken from... Chocolate Toxicity - What Makes Chocolate Toxic To Pets By Janet Tobiasen Crosby, DVM*



### Ask - A - Vet

Send in your questions for our vets!  
[askavet@comcast.net](mailto:askavet@comcast.net)

We want to hear from you!

## WARNING

**While chocolate has degrees of toxicity, the chemical Xylitol can be deadly in any amount. "Xylitol is a sugar alcohol -- an artificial sweetener created from birch, raspberries, plums and corn. This sweetener is found in many human "sugar free" products, such as gum, candies and other sweets. In humans, high doses may have a mild laxative effect, but in dogs, ingestion could be fatal." It can be found in toothpastes, sugar free gums, low-carb baked goods and deserts. Check out these websites for more information on the toxicity of Xylitol:**

[http://vetmedicine.about.com/od/toxicology/qt/xylitol\\_tox.htm](http://vetmedicine.about.com/od/toxicology/qt/xylitol_tox.htm)

[http://www2.aspc.org/site/DocServer/vetm0207f\\_095-100.pdf?docID=10462](http://www2.aspc.org/site/DocServer/vetm0207f_095-100.pdf?docID=10462)

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2007-03-18-xylitol->

## WARNING

### Fleas Be Gone!

Present this coupon and receive 1 dose of your favorite flea preventative for just

# \$ 10.00

Frontline \* Advantage \* Revolution \* Comfortis