

Barrie Veterinary Barker

Official Hospital Newsletter

6 Sophia St E. Barrie, ON L4M 1Y2 (705) 728-4545 fax (705) 728-8556 barrie.veterinary@on.aibn.com



FALL & WINTER PET CARE

Fall and winter can pose special risks to your pets. Here are some tips for keeping everyone safe and healthy.

Maintenance Tips

· Always provide fresh, clean water for your pet. If the weather is cold, please check their water for ice formation and remove the ice. Indoor pets should be provided with a warm, dry area free from drafts. Provide bedding that is off of cold floors and wash bedding weekly if possible. Outdoor pets should have dry shelter out of the wind. Bring cats and dogs into the house if weather conditions are rainy, snowy or severe. Remove ice, salt, mud, and/or snow from your pets' coat and feet as soon as possible. If the skin looks reddish, white or gray or is scaly or peeling suspect frostbite if the weather has been really cold. If you notice any of these symptoms talk to a veterinarian immediately! Most dogs and cats shed their summer coats in the fall before growing in their winter ones. Special attention should be paid to hair coats and daily or weekly brushings, (as needed), should help your "hairy household" problems. Abnormal hair loss, (clumps of missing fur, etc...), should be brought to your veterinarian's attention.

Hazard Warnings!

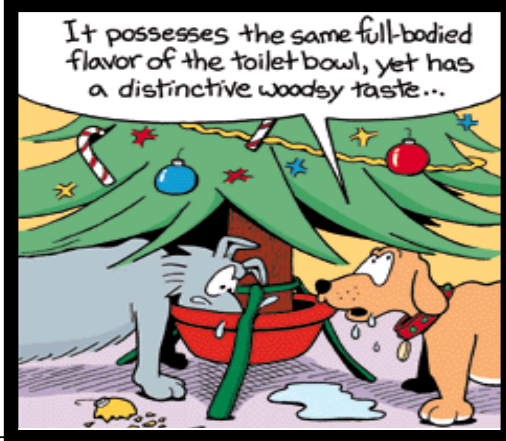
Cats and kittens like to nap in and on warm places. Unfortunately this can include car engines! Knock on the hood of your car or truck or honk the horn and then wait a few minutes before starting the engine. If in doubt open the hood and check. Contrary to what most may think antifreeze smells good and tastes sweet. Ingesting even a very small amount could seriously harm or even kill your pet. For example-if a cat walks through a puddle of antifreeze and then licks his paws he will have swallowed enough to cause serious damage. Chemicals begin crystallizing in the kidneys so symptoms may not show for a few days at which point it may be too late. Thoroughly clean up any spills and sprinkle them with kitty litter to help absorb the liquid and cover the smell. Never let your pet drink from gutters as some careless car owners may dispose of unused antifreeze there. Store antifreeze in tightly closed containers where pets and children cannot get at them. For concerned pet owners a company called 'Sierra' does make non-toxic antifreeze. (Ask our reception for a pamphlet.) Avoid feeding your pet holiday foods such as, candy, chocolate, alcoholic beverages, turkey, pork, fish and bones-just to name a few. Keep your pet on its regular diet. Feeding your pet these rich human foods can lead to the development of diarrhea, vomiting or serious illness.

(Hazards cont'd...)

Many plants, including Christmas rose, holly, mistletoe, philodendron & dieffenbachia, are toxic to your pet. Keep them out of your pets reach. Fall is the most common time of year for male cats to become "blocked"-the formation of crystals or stones that block the flow of urine from the bladder through the urethra. A veterinarian should check any cat that seems to be straining at once! Why this time of year? Some feel it may have to do with decreased water intake. Halloween candy is not good for your pets, especially chocolate. During this season keep cats inside to avoid tricksters and possible encounters with cars. And with the chaos of all the visitors and doors opening to sneak out of be sure to keep a close eye on your pets to ensure they don't run out of the house. Dogs especially can be confused and frightened by strangers and their costumes so it may be a good idea to keep nervous or timid dogs in another room on this festive night. Holiday paraphernalia such as electrical cords, tinsel, glass ornaments, candles, spray on-snow, (some are non-toxic-read the label), ribbons, rubber bands, plastic and foil wrapping can be dangerous to your pets. Cover up or hide electric cords and never let your pets chew on them. Do not tie ribbons around your furry friends' necks or limbs. Happy Holidays!!

COFFEE FOR DOGS

just for laughs





ANTIFREEZE

ANTIFREEZE poisoning

Antifreeze poisoning is very common because, although potentially lethal if ingested, the solution actually tastes sweet! Most all brands of antifreeze are made up of about 95% Ethylene Glycol, (EG). EG is a major source of poisonings in dogs and cats. The minimum lethal dose of EG is 75ml for a 30lb dog and only 30ml for a 10lb cat. In 1 995 over 100,000 pets were poisoned by accidentally ingesting EG antifreeze resulting in more than 90,000 deaths.

THE BREAKDOWN OF ETHYLENE GLYCOL

Once ingested the liver breaks EG down into 3 toxic byproducts; Glycoaldehyde-effects the central nervous system, (the brain); Glycolate and Glyoxylate – both of which cause metabolic acidosis, (an imbalance of pH levels).

CLINICAL SIGNS

The clinical signs of EG poisoning are dependent on both the dosing and the amount of time that has passed after antifreeze ingestion.

EARLY SIGNS

30mins-12hrs After Ingestion

Three to six hours after ingestion is typically when clinical signs will appear most prominent. These can include lethargy, poor coordination, vomiting, nausea, and more frequent drinking and urination.

12-24hrs After Ingestion

The clinical signs at this stage of poisoning tend to subside and patients briefly appear to be recovering.

LATE CLINICAL SIGNS

24-48hrs After Ingestion

At this stage the toxic by products will have caused severe kidney failure. The early signs will have progressed into severe lethargy, seizures, anorexia, infrequent or non-urination, vomiting and possible coma.

DIAGNOSTICS

Initially the most important method of diagnosing EG poisoning is to give the veterinarian a thorough and accurate history of the pet. Based on this information further work up may be required.

A typical diagnostic measure taken is to assess the patient's urine for Calcium Oxylate Crystals. These crystals, formed by the breakdown of the ethylene byproducts, can be noted as early as six hours after ingestion. The final step in diagnosing antifreeze poisoning is assessing the animal's blood to confirm the animal's kidney function.

TREATMENTS

When diagnosed before peak hours of ingestion gastric washes or administering activated charcoal may prevent further absorption and subsequent damage. Certain medications may also be given in order to prevent the metabolism, (breakdown), of EG into toxic byproducts. The patient will also be given intravenous fluid therapy to maintain urine output.