

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 29 Oct '07
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Director

Besides the beautiful weather, last Saturday was also a great day as ten of our dogs and a younger cat found their forever homes. So with all these new pets learning the ropes with their new families and with buckets & bags of Halloween treats in these same homes, everyone needs to be aware that some foods we enjoy can be harmful to our pets. While anything in excess can cause problems, pet owners need to be especially aware that the following foods can be potentially fatally toxic to pets:

Chocolate / Cocoa / Coffee - staggering, labored breathing, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, tremors, fever, heart rate increase, arrhythmia, seizures, coma, death

Grapes / Raisins - vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, lethargy

Onions - Hemolytic Anemia, labored breathing, liver damage, vomiting, diarrhea, discolored urine

Mushrooms - abdominal pain, drooling, liver damage, kidney damage, vomiting diarrhea, convulsions, coma, death

So if you suspect that your pet has been poisoned, what should you do? First – don't panic as keeping a calm and clear head will go a long way to helping your pet survive. If your pet is having seizures, losing consciousness, is unconscious or is having difficulty breathing, telephone ahead and take your pet immediately to your local veterinarian or emergency veterinary clinic.

If at all possible, take 30 to 60 seconds to safely collect the food or product ingested, or any resulting vomit in a sealable plastic bag or other clean container and take along to the vet.

If you or your vet wants to tap into the resources of animal poison experts, there are two resources available 24-hours/day for consultation and advice: One is the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435 (www.aspca.org) for a \$55 consultation fee. The other is the Pet Poison Helpline™ at 800-213-6680 (www.petpoisonhelpline.com) for a \$35 fee covering the initial consultation as well as all follow up calls associated with the management of the case

The following list is of recommended items be kept on hand as useful first aid tools in case of poisoning, but always speak to your vet or a poison control specialist prior to initiating any therapies and NEVER administer hydrogen peroxide to any pet unless under the direct recommendation of a veterinary professional.

First Aid Kit Contents: Hydrogen peroxide 3% (within the expiration date); Liquid hand dish washing detergent; Rubber gloves; Triple antibiotic ointment; Vitamin E Oil; Corn Syrup; Vegetable oil; Sweet electrolyte containing beverage; Can of tuna packed in water, or tasty canned pet food; Ophthalmic saline solution or artificial tears; Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) tablets 25mg (with NO other combination ingredients).

Remember - Never administer over-the-counter human medications to animals before speaking with a veterinarian or toxicology professional first!

Prevention is always the best method, so please just keep your pet from ingesting things that may harm them and ensure your children are also aware that their Halloween Candy should NOT be shared with their special furry friend.

“Prepare and prevent, don't repair and repent.” ~Author Unknown