

# APRIL NEWS

## DOGS — TOXIC FOODS



April 2008

With Easter having just passed and all our bellies full of chocolate and festive barbeques, we thought it appropriate to alert you to some of the foods that are toxic to dogs/cats.

### CHOCOLATE

Chocolate contains theobromine which is toxic to dogs in sufficient quantities. Dark or cooking chocolate contains far more theobromine than milk chocolate and therefore pose a greater risk. Generally speaking, a 10kg dog would need to eat about 500g of milk chocolate before they would become sick. But if they were to eat cooking chocolate, a dog of the same size may be sick after as little as 50g. Symptoms of chocolate toxicity include:

- vomiting, diarrhoea and restlessness
- rigid muscles, increased reflexes, rapid breathing rate
- advanced signs = weakness, heart failure, coma and death

Remember that some dogs will be more susceptible than others, so if in doubt, ring the vet for advice as to whether the amount your dog has consumed is toxic.

### ONIONS

When consumed by cats and dogs, onions (raw or cooked) cause oxidative damage to the red blood cells. This destroys the red blood cells leading to anaemia.

- Symptoms include:
- lethargy, weakness
  - pale mucous membranes
  - laboured breathing



### GRAPES, SULTANAS, RAISINS, DATES

This food group was only recently discovered to be toxic to dogs and cats and hence, little is known about the mechanism of disease. Essentially, consumption of even a few sultanas or grapes can be enough to cause acute life-threatening kidney failure. So if your dog or cat eats grapes, sultanas, raisins or dates, call the vet immediately.



### TREATMENT

As with most toxins, the key is to induce vomiting. If most of the ingested toxin can be removed from the body, then there will be less effects. Treatment for all of these toxicities is supportive and involves the administration of intravenous fluids to flush through the toxin and possibly flushing of the stomach or bowel.

### ORPHAN OR TWIN CALVES

If you have any orphan or twin calves that need a good home and some TLC, we have some clients and members of staff that would be willing to take them on so give us a call.



### MISSING CAT

Vet nurse, Bri Seaton, has lost her ginger cat named "Ovlo." He was last seen in Paxtons Road on Thursday 27th March. He is a very distinctive ginger cat with a stumpy tail! Please let us know at the clinic if you have seen him. He is sadly missed!

## INSECT BITES

Insect bites are very common in all animals, especially dogs and horses. Bull ants, bees and European wasps are the most common culprits. Animals are usually bitten on the feet or face. Unlike humans, animals VERY rarely suffer the nasty/fatal allergic reactions to these insect bites. Symptoms include:

- mild signs: irritation and swelling at bite site
- moderate signs: more severe swelling
- severe signs: difficulty breathing (NOTE: this is very rare.)



Most animals do not need treatment. Often washing the site of irritation / swelling with cool water and applying an ice pack will be enough. If the swelling is more severe (more likely if bitten around the face) or if there is difficulty breathing, then a visit to the vet may be needed. We usually give injections of cortisone and anti-histamine which helps to resolve the swelling more quickly. There is no long term side effects of insect bites and animals that are bitten for a 2nd or 3rd time are NOT likely to have fatal allergic reactions.

## PHOTOSENSITISATION IN A HORSE



Dr. Sally Cullen and Dr. Kate Martin recently saw a horse that was presented for what was thought to be a very nasty case of greasy heel. "Kimbah," an 18 year old Arab chestnut gelding had sores and swelling extending from his coronet to up above his fetlock on both back legs. He had also lost weight over the last few months since he had been agisted in a new paddock. Interestingly, these sores were only present within areas of white-haired skin (ie. his socks). A tentative diagnosis of photosensitization was made and some blood was taken from him to test his liver enzymes.

Photosensitisation is a disease in both cattle and horses which causes an inflammatory skin disease due to exposure to UV radiation. The disease most commonly occurs after the ingestion of certain types of plants (eg. Patteron's Curse) containing pyrrolizidine alkaloids which damage the liver. Once the liver is damaged, it cannot break down the green pigment (chlorophyll) that exists in the grasses that cattle and horses eat. This leads to the accumulation of a photo-dynamic agent under the skin which makes the skin far more susceptible to "sunburn." Hence, white areas are worse affected than pigmented areas.

In the case of Kimbah, liver damage was detected and photosensitization was confirmed. The most important part of his treatment was to remove him from the paddock he was in to stop the exposure to the toxic plants. He was also given zinc cream to cover the affected areas, pain relief, vitamin B to help the liver and a nifty pair of socks made from shade-cloth to keep the sun off his lower legs. He is now recovering well and is learning how important it is to "slip, slop, slap!"

## AQIS ACCREDITATION

Dr Peter Cullen is an AQIS accredited Vet and can provide export certificates for both companion animals and livestock. Animals exported overseas need to meet the health requirements of the importing country. This may require blood testing, treatments and examinations. It is important to be aware of these requirements well in advance to allow sufficient time to prepare the necessary certificates.



Dr Cullen is also accredited to do SheepMAP and CattleMAP which are Market Assurance Programs and to do Ovine Brucellosis Testing.

Please contact Dr Cullen if you are interested in any of these programs.

## INSIDE STORY HEADLINE

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

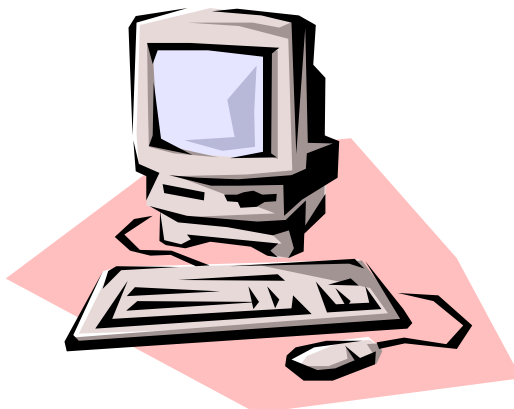
A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety

of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a

simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

## INSIDE STORY HEADLINE

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

*"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."*

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top

customers or vendors.

## INSIDE STORY HEADLINE

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands

of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the



Caption describing picture or graphic.

image near the image.

## MANSFIELD VETERINARY CLINIC

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We're on the Web!  
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om



*This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.*

*It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.*

## BACK PAGE STORY HEADLINE

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to

refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast

meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.



Caption describing picture or graphic.