

**3 Maroondah Highway
Lilydale Vet Centre
(03) 9735 4211**

Clinic Hours

Mon-Friday: 7:30 – 6:30 pm

Tuesday: 7:30 – 5.00 pm

Saturday: 8:30 – 3.00 pm

**Emergency Vet 24 hours
(03) 9735 4211**

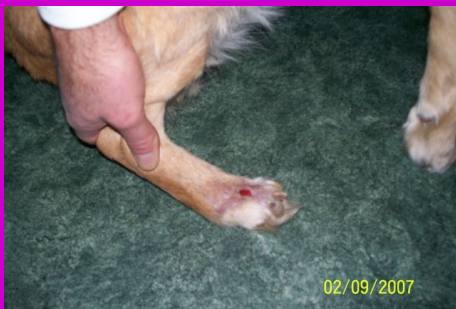


Choose us as your family vet

September 2009

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Here we go, August gone~ and on the count down to summer. The trainee nurses are doing well and should be finishing their year as planned. There are two new faces in the clinic! We are very excited to introduce Caron and Marianne ~ More about the staff later...

SURVIVOR OF THR MONTH

Kira, an older Labrador, had a 5-minute escape from her property and as fate would have it, got bumped by a car. The “only” injury she sustained was to her right paw ` the skin was basically stripped away from the limb. We call this type of injury a ‘degloving injury’

Initially Kira was anaesthetised for cleaning and skin salvage procedures. Some skin was removed in the early stages of the procedure and the area was covered with paraffin gauze and bandaged. Kira came in every few days for bandage changes and for us to be sure that the extensive wound does not get infected. Gradually the visits were spaced further and further apart while the miracle of skin healing took place. After 8 weeks the bandages were finally removed and Kira was left with a small scare and one less toe.

At this stage I have to mention something about her lovely and patient personality. She took everything we threw at her in her stride, ~ from the thick bandages to the Elizabethian collar~ and bounced into the clinic each time as if it was the biggest outing ever!

Thanks Kira.

...

KNICK KNACK PADDY WACK GIVE THAT DOG A BONE

Most pet owners have strictly adhered to the code of “bones are bad” for their dogs, and most believe that if their beloved pooch were to get a hold of one, death would certainly be imminent. What needs to be brought to light is that bones are in fact not bad at all; on the contrary, bones can serve more than one purpose in your dog’s diet and have been proven to be quite healthful. One of the most common reasons people think bones are bad for their dogs is that they present a choking hazard. Newsflash, dogs can choke on anything!

The action alone of chewing or gnawing on a bone is healthy for your dog’s [dental care](#) because it is a teeth cleaning exercise that is helpful to



you the owner in that it may cut down on plaque and decay, which saves you an expensive visit to the vet

The benefits of eating bones are greatly reduced by cooking, and it can actually create dangers. Cooking bones renders the natural calcium almost unavailable for absorption, losing that vital source of mineral availability. Cooked bones are much tougher, and more brittle than raw bones, and will actually blunt an animal's tooth after regular chewing. They also break into large chunks more easily, and can result in your pet swallowing a piece too large to digest, and then a quick visit for some veterinary attention. Cooked bones are very slow to breakdown in the animal's gut, and can cause gut pain (colic), scarring of the gut lining and bleeding, and can lead to constipation

Rules

Avoid cooked bones full stop.

- As a general rule, avoid bones of a size that will tempt the dog to swallow them without chewing. They can still get caught in the gut, or wedged across the roof of the mouth. A big dog will attempt to swallow a whole lamb neck, choke and die!
- Do not split the bones before feeding. The marrow is very fatty and can cause pancreatitis at the worst and weight gain at the best
- Avoid salted bones –ham bones, bacon bones. These are salted and can make an animal very sick



NUTS AND RAISINS

Can my dogs have some raisins, grapes or sultanas?

Is someone asked this 20 years ago, what the heck~ 10 years ago~ I would have said yes. No problem. But recent studies revealed that these innocent foodstuffs are potentially deadly to dogs.

The consumption of grapes and raisins presents a potential health threat to dogs. Their toxicity to dogs can cause the animal to develop acute renal failure (the sudden development of kidney failure) with anuria (a lack of urine production). The reason why some dogs develop renal failure following ingestion of grapes and raisins is not known. The estimated toxic dose of grapes is 32 g/kg and for raisins it is 11–30 g/kg. That is 320 grams of grapes and 100-300 grams of raisins/sultanas for a 10 kilogram dog.

Vomiting and diarrhea are often the first symptoms of grape or raisin toxicity. They often develop within a few hours of ingestion. Pieces of grapes or raisins may be present in the vomitus or stool. Further symptoms include weakness, not eating, increased drinking, and abdominal pain. Acute renal failure develops within 48 hours of ingestion. A blood test may reveal increases in blood urea nitrogen (BUN), creatinine, phosphorus, and calcium.

Skip the **macadamia nuts** as well. Symptoms included a rear limb weakness. The toxic dose seems to be around 2 grams/kg! Cats are less likely to eat these but caution should be taken. Ethylene



glycol (anti freeze) and Easter Lilies are the every day products that will kill your cat. They cause kidney damage.

FATTY LIVER SYNDROME IN CATS

Cats need a good source of animal protein and some fat in their daily diet. Carbohydrates although palatable to cats, do not have any nutritional value to a cat and they cannot survive on a vegetarian diet.

One interesting but potential fatal condition in cats is where they lose their appetite for a few days (for a variety of reasons) and they start to break down their body fat. The chances of the fatty liver syndrome occurring are greater if the cat was obese before the anorexia began. As fat is broken down to supply nutrients for the anorectic cat, the fat is deposited so rapidly in the liver that it cannot be processed. It becomes stored in and around the liver cells, resulting in liver failure. The cat usually becomes jaundiced as evidenced by a yellow colour in the whites of the eyes or in the skin. At this point, the disease will be fatal if not treated rapidly and aggressively.

The take home message here is never to “starve” a cat ~



Unsubscribe, comments and remarks

We really invite feedback on any aspect of the newsletter, clinic & services we offer. Just click the address below and return to us

<mailto:admin@lilydalevetcentre.com.au>

Food for thought

When dogs leap onto your bed, it's because they adore being with you. When cats leap onto your bed, it's because they adore your bed.

Jules Champfleury
