

PETS  
July 23



# The Green Gazette

## Treat or Toxin?

Do you know which foods are safe for your pet to enjoy and which can harm them?

The following foods and household items can be toxic to dogs and cats:

- Chocolate
- Grapes, raisins, currants
- Onions, garlic, leeks, chives
- Caffeine
- Salt (think salty foods, dishwasher tablets, de-icing salt, play-dough and sea water)
- Xylitol- *a common sweetener in sugar free gum, sweets, peanut butter and even medications.*
- Human painkillers- *ibuprofen is especially toxic and paracetamol is very dangerous for cats.*
- Other human medications- *if you find your pet has eaten some, it's best to check with a vet.*
- Anti-freeze- *the sweet taste can be particularly attractive to dogs, but both dogs and cats can die from the kidney damage caused.*
- Rat/mouse poison- *even small amounts are strong enough to kill a dog or cat. Effects are seen days later.*



### What do I do if my pet eats something they shouldn't?

If you know your pet has eaten something poisonous, or it's highly likely that they have, contact us as soon as possible on 017684 84258. We might:

- Make your pet vomit- this is most effective within **2 hours** of ingestion.
- Give charcoal- this helps to bind toxins in the gut, to stop your pet absorbing them.
- Administer fluids or other medications to help your pet overcome any lasting effects.

If your pet has eaten something and you're not sure if it's poisonous, it's always best to check with a vet as soon as possible.

## Welcome Back, Lorna!

Our lovely Lorna is back from maternity leave this month, after 11 months off with beautiful baby Jasmine. We're thrilled to have her back. Make sure to say hi when you're next in (and forgive her for any baby-brain mishaps?!)

## Dog food

Did you know we can supply dog food from Royal Canin, Hill's, Virbac and Calibra? What you probably don't know is that our prices are often equal to or *less than* online suppliers (we've checked!) meaning you could save money and support your local, independent vet practice, all at the same time! Ask us for a price for your favourite food and see how we compare.

If you, or your pet, aren't happy with the food they're eating, get in touch and we'll be able to recommend a diet that fits your needs.

## Tick-borne disease

People are reporting higher numbers of ticks this year than usually seen. Many tick bites are ultimately harmless but it's important to be aware of the potential risks associated with ticks.

### What problems can ticks cause?

- Localised tick-bite reactions- red, raised itchy swellings can occur where a tick has bitten and then been removed or fallen off. These usually settle down with time but may become infected, particularly if your pet licks or scratches them repeatedly.
- Anaemia- if an animal carries a significant number of ticks they may develop anaemia. This is most significant in small dogs and cats, particularly if fleas are also present.
- Lyme disease- Signs include: fever, inappetance, lethargy, painful or swollen joints or intermittent lameness, swollen lymph nodes and lethargy.
- Anaplasmosis- Signs include: fever, lethargy and inappetance.
- Babesiosis- Signs include: anaemia, jaundice, swollen lymph nodes, and fever.

### What should I do if my pet has a tick?

- Remove the tick as soon as possible
  - With a tick twister, slide the teeth of the tool under the body of the tick, tight against the skin and twist anti-clockwise.
  - With fine-pointed tick tweezers, grasp the head of the tick right where it enters the skin and twist anti-clockwise. Be careful not to leave any of the head of the tick behind.
  - Make sure not to squeeze the soft body of the tick as this can squeeze blood back into your pet and potentially increase the risk of disease transmission.
- Make sure to capture and kill the tick in case it re-attaches. This can be done by squeezing the tick in a piece of tissue paper or sealing it in sticky tape and throwing it away.
- Then, monitor your pet for any unusual signs or behaviour. No need to call a vet straight away as many tick bites occur without disease transmission happening.

### How can I prevent ticks and their effects?

- Treat your pet regularly with an effective tick control product. Ticks may still bite treated animals but they should be killed quickly and drop off, reducing the time in which disease transmission could occur.
  - Ask us for effective tick control that suits your dog. Health plan members will already be receiving monthly tick treatment.
- Check your dog for ticks after every walk, particularly if they have spent time in long grass or vegetation.
- Brush your dog regularly- watch carefully as you may dislodge ticks crawling in the fur. Catch and kill these as described above.

## Skelton Show

It was great to see so many familiar faces at Skelton show. Our new branded gazebo made a successful debut, standing up to the wind and rain overnight.

Hannah came 1<sup>st</sup> in her class with homebred horse Diva. Stephen (Head of gazebo management) won best in show for his photography and vet Charlie placed 3<sup>rd</sup> with a pencil sketch.

Well done to all involved for such a successful show. We hope to see you at Hesketh on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September!