



A Dogs Dinner

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We all have heard the stories that dogs will eat anything and unfortunately it is often true. This can cause issues when what is eaten is either toxic or too large to pass through the stomach and intestines. Some of the more common things we encounter are chocolate, rat bait, bones and material.

Rat bait is the most common cause of poisoning in pets. It often takes up to 3 days for signs to be seen, but this is dependent on the dose consumed. The toxins can last in the

body for over 3 weeks, treatment is required during this period. The signs all reflect blood loss, which can include: bruising, issues breathing, swollen joints or external bleeding.

Chocolate toxicity causes vomiting and diarrhoea initially, which can progress to heart beat irregularities and seizures if large volumes are consumed. The toxic component is most concentrated in dark chocolate. Whittaker's Dark Ghana with 72% cocoa will cause sickness in a 20kg dog after eating only 35grams or about 6 squares, but the same dog would have to eat 100grams of Cadbury Dairy Milk to become sick. It is important to remember that some dogs will get ill with lower doses than this.

Bones and other foreign objects which are too big to pass through can get stuck in the stomach or any where through the small intestines. These problems often present with vomiting and discomfort in the abdomen. In some cases the stomach can be damaged, they can cause holes in the intestines and also interfere with blood supply to the intestines. Unfortunately the only way to get these objects out is through surgery, which can be costly and not without risks.

Some of the more unusual objects that we have recently removed from dogs intestines, include stones, an entire calf ear tag and an intact Kinder Surprise from a basset hound (the toy was a dog in a basket!)

If your pet eats anything that you are unsure about, ring the clinic for advice even if it is out of regular hours.



Broadline® – The Most Comprehensive Parasite Control For Cats

Broadline is the first flea and tick treatment to kill both roundworms and tapeworms in one easy to apply topical solution.

A distinct advantage of Broadline is how easy it is to administer; the unique applicator ensures accurate treatment with a minimum of fuss for both the you and your cat.

The product is best applied at night and will be fine to touch the next morning. It takes 24hrs for it to spread through the coat for complete flea control. Newly arrived fleas will be killed in 8-24hrs.

Treatment Interval:

- 4-6 weekly intervals for fleas where there is a risk of concurrent gastrointestinal worm infection.
- Flea allergy and tick control – treat every 4 weeks.
- A single treatment is effective for worm and lice control.
- Treatment can start in kittens from 2 months of age – apply monthly.



Talk with one of our vets about using Broadline for your cat.

Sheep Measles - Not just from Farm dogs

We are starting to hear of an increased incidence of sheep measles being reported from sheep going through the works. This has primarily been associated with sheep that have previously been grazed through vineyards, though the incidence has been slowly rising since compulsory treatment for hydatids was removed.

Sheep Measles is the common name of a lesion seen in the muscle of sheep (also goats), caused by *Cysticercus ovis*, the cystic or intermediate stage of the tapeworm *Taenia ovis*. It is seen as small, hard, white regions in the muscles. Dog are the primary host and carry the tapeworms in their intestines.

The tapeworm segments passed out of dogs can contain up to 70,000 eggs and up to three segments are produced each day. The eggs are able to survive on pasture for up to six months. A sheep then ingests the eggs which take 35 days to become a mature cyst. The cysts are very infective, only one cyst consumed by a dog is likely to result in infection. It then develops into an egg producing tapeworm in about 35 days, completing the lifecycle.

Control is centred around the dog - The most effective ways of making the meat safe from infection by destroying the cysts are: cooking the meat thoroughly to a core temperature over 72 degrees or by freezing it to -10 degrees for at least 10 days, offal must be boiled for at least 30 minutes. Raw meat scraps should not be feed to dogs and home kill areas should be fenced, plus dogs should be prevented from scavenging dead carcasses.

Even meat purchased from a butcher or abattoir can be a risk and should be treated

accordingly. For control of infection in dogs, regular treatment with a product containing Praziquantel is the most reliable, simple and cost effective solution. All dogs entering onto farm land or land where stock may graze should be regularly treated. The most commonly used products are Droncit (which purely does tapeworms), Drontal, Endo-Guard, Dolpac or Milbemax (these four will all also cover for roundworms, hookworms and whipworms). We would recommend dogs that frequently cross onto grazing land to be treated every 6 weeks even the pet dogs, as they are often found to be the source of infection.

Remember that dogs do not respect fences, so a stray dog carrying tapeworms has the capacity to infect many surrounding properties.

Dogs Day Out

Vets on Alabama and More FM held the inaugural Dogs Day Out on Sunday 15th September 2013. This event was held beside the Taylor river adjacent to the Munro Street carpark.

The day was well attended with over 300 dogs registering. It was fantastic that Marlborough dog owners responded so well to this event. We are now working with More FM to ensure that it remains an annual fixture.



We were also lucky to have the company of the Marlborough Dog Agility Group and Riding For The Disabled ran a fundraising sausage sizzle.

During the event we gave away a number of spot prizes as well as holding a major prize draw shortly after midday. Free dental checks were also carried out by one of our vets Dr Katalin Banyay and vet nurse Ketta Gerard. These were popular, with a constant flow of dogs coming through.

We have had a lot of very positive feedback from people saying that it was an enjoyable day and that it was great to have an event organised that they could take their dog too.

We look forward to this becoming an annual event and would like to thank Bridget and team from More FM for their help in the organisation, as well as the support of Scott from Masterpet and Anita from Zeotis Animal Health.

FREE DENTAL CHECKS

Vets on Alabama offer a free dental check for your dog or cat. This check up is done by one of our highly skilled veterinary nurses

- Thorough mouth exam
- Detailed advice on dental home care
- Rundown of dental products available
- Estimates + info on dental surgeries given (if necessary)

**Call The Clinic To Book Your Cat or Dog In For Their Free Dental Check
Ph: (03) 578 6965**

PUPPY PRESCHOOL

Vets on Alabama offer a Puppy Preschool course that goes for five weeks, one night per week.

WHY PUPPY PRESCHOOL

- Allows Socialisation in a safe and controlled environment
- Teach owners methods to help train and teach their puppy.
- Educate on responsible dog ownership, including healthcare and nutrition.
- Allows puppies to accept handling by other humans.
- Teaches owners about normal and abnormal behaviour and to develop realistic expectations of the puppy.

When: 6pm – Monday or Wednesday nights. (You will be told which night when you book in)
Duration: 45 mins to 1 hr.
Cost: \$70.00
Class size: Limited – please phone to put your name on the list.

For More Information: Call Karyn or Ketta at the Clinic – (03) 578 6965.

**Have A Look At Our Website
www.vetsonalabama.co.nz**



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