



## VILLAGE VETS AUTUMN NEWSLETTER MAY 2013

Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday  
Village Vets



On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May  
Village Vets was  
one year old.

*This has certainly been a year  
to remember and we are very  
grateful for all your support  
over our first year.*

*While we have made a great  
start to our business we still  
need to grow to survive and  
thrive, so tell your friends and  
family how good we are ☺*



### Pet Nutrition

We now stock a new range of food from Nutro Natural Choice. This offers a natural alternative and grain free varieties for sensitive stomachs and problem skins.

Nutro have a label claim to improve coat and skin within 8 weeks, we have some promising cases already...

**We currently are offering an  
opening special:  
Buy one bag and get the 2<sup>nd</sup> bag  
at ½ price (offer extends until end  
of June)**



**TRAVELLING WITH POOCH? WE  
NOW HAVE EFFECTIVE CAR  
SICKNESS MEDICATION.**

### (SOUND)BITE: UNDERSTANDING YOUR PETS' DENTAL NEEDS

Periodontal disease is the most frequently occurring clinical condition in dogs and cats with 4 out of 5 animals over the age of 3 showing some signs of dental disease. Signs to look out for include bad breath, behavioural changes, difficulty eating dry food and bleeding gums.

#### Overview

Plaque (a mixture of food particles, saliva and bacterial particles) builds up within hours on even a clean tooth and can begin to cause gingivitis within 48 hours. Undisturbed plaque can mineralise to form calculus (also known as tartar or scale) within days, which then hastens further plaque formation. This is why some form of dental treatment is important right from an early age.

#### Progressive dental disease

Gingivitis – caused by plaque accumulation – is inflammation of the gums, but is reversible. If left unchecked gingivitis inevitably leads to periodontitis which causes loss of attachment of gums, supporting tissue and eventually bone surrounding the tooth. This will lead to chronic infection and eventual loss of teeth. Not only is the progression of this disease painful and debilitating for your animal it can lead to serious systemic disease including irreversible damage to the heart and other organs

#### Tips for good oral health

- 🐾 Make sure your pet has regular oral health examinations and early dental treatment if necessary
- 🐾 Train your puppy or adult dog to get them used to having the mouth examined and teeth brushed regularly (not so easy for cats...)
- 🐾 Introduce specially designed biscuits/chews/treats into your pets diet to help keep teeth clean (post dental work)



Healthy teeth  
and gums



Early signs of  
gum disease



Long term without  
treatment

# HUMAN FOOD TOXIC TO ANIMALS

In our summer newsletter we covered some environmental poisons to look out for with your pets. We thought it might be informative to know about some of the food we eat and take for granted that can be a problem if fed to your pets; it is important to understand that dogs and cats have different metabolisms to humans.

1. **Grapes & Raisins:** Mechanism of toxicity is not known but causes acute renal failure and associated symptoms (excess drinking, diarrhoea, vomiting loss of appetite. Doses as low as 5g/kg can cause problems and treatment consists of supportive therapy to try and get the animal through the crisis.
2. **Macadamia Nuts:** Certainly toxic in dogs, has not been reported in cats, again an unknown mechanism that causes symptoms which may include weakness, depression, vomiting, ataxia, tremors, and hyperthermia. Doses as low as 2.5g/kg have reportedly caused symptoms, recovery with supportive treatment is normally achieved within 48 hours
3. **Rising Bread Dough:** Ingestion of rising bread dough can be life-threatening to dogs. The animal's body heat will cause the dough to rise in the stomach. Ethanol is produced during the rising process; and, the dough may expand several times its original size. Signs seen with bread dough ingestion are associated with ethanol toxicoses and foreign body obstruction may include severe abdominal pain, bloating, vomiting, incoordination, and depression.
4. **Onions & Garlic:** Onions are members of the genus Allium. Pieces of onion, onion powder, or even cooked onion, can cause damage to red blood cells which could result in anaemia in both dogs and cats. Feeding commercial baby food containing onion powder has also been reported to cause toxicity in cats. Clinical signs associated with onion poisoning include haemolytic anaemia, haemoglobinuria, vomiting, weakness, and pallor. Be careful with giving "natural" remedies that contain garlic to your pets.
5. **Chocolate:** Chocolate is a mixture of cocoa beans and cocoa butter. It contains theobromine and caffeine, which are both classified as methylxanthines. Unfortunately, dogs are sensitive to the effects of methylxanthines. Depending on the dose, methylxanthines can cause hyperactivity, increased heart rate, tremors, and potentially death. Other effects seen with chocolate overdose include vomiting, diarrhoea, increased thirst, increased urination, and lethargy. The amount of methylxanthines present in chocolate depends varies with the type. The general rule is the more bitter the chocolate, the more toxic it could be. In fact, unsweetened baking chocolate contains almost seven times more theobromine as milk chocolate. Mild signs can be seen at doses over 20 mg/kg, moderate effects are seen over 40 mg/kg, and severe effects are seen at doses over 60 mg/kg ( Milk chocolate has about 50- 60 mg/oz. of methylxanthines)
6. **Xylitol:** is a naturally occurring sugar substitute. Use of xylitol has recently expanded in popularity, and xylitol is found in many sugar-free gums, candies, and other foods. Dogs appear sensitive to xylitol, as ingestion of 100mg/kg xylitol can result in rapid, life-threatening hypoglycaemia (no known toxicity exists for humans). Doses exceeding 500-1000mg/kg have been associated with acute hepatic failure and coagulopathy.

Kitten Season is over at Village Vets – see you again in the Springtime 😊

