

## Kern Road Veterinary Clinic, P.L.L.C.

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## Facebook

We would love for you to become a part of our Facebook Family! Then visit us regularly on Facebook, where you can access important updates and interesting information about our clinic.

## Keeping Up To Speed

We are trying to update our records to better serve you. We use your pet's record to help generate important reminder cards about vaccines, fecals, and other tests that your pet may need. If you have had recent changes in your "pet family," that we are unaware of, please call us so we do not send unwanted reminders or overlook anyone new.



## Dog Training at Kern Road Vet

We are once again offering dog training with puppy and obedience classes available. Please call us about upcoming opportunities for you and your pet. We should have something to meet your needs!

## Thank You!

We just wanted to give a heartfelt thank you to all of our wonderful patients and clients! We are so lucky to have you in our clinic family and we hope we can continue to meet all of your pet's needs.

## Buyer Beware

We are aware that some of you purchase some of your pet's medications online. But many of the manufacturers will not guarantee their products when purchased anywhere but from your veterinarian. Some of these manufacturer guarantees will pay for testing and treatments for your pet if there are any failures with their products. For example, with the heartworm prevention we carry, if used appropriately and your pet develops heartworm disease, the manufacturer will cover the costs to test and treat your dog. This is not the case if purchased online. We just want what is best for you and your pet so please research any online source before purchasing their products. Not every pharmacy is reputable and safe and a small savings up front could mean a large expense later, or worse, a failure for the medication to work.



## Oh No! The Dog/Cat Just Ate. . .



There are many things your dog or cat can ingest that are toxic. Signs of toxicity can be as mild as vomiting and diarrhea, or as severe as kidney failure, seizures and death. Unfortunately, what our pets may have eaten is not always known. Our best defense against possible toxicity is to know what can be toxic and to keep those toxins away from our pets. Here are brief descriptions of some more common toxins.

Common household toxins include **avocado, bitter gourd, macadamia nuts, xylitol** (contained in gum, mints and as a baking product), **onions, garlic, chives, grapes/raisins, chocolate, coffee beans**. Alcohol can be rapidly absorbed and is found in **beverages** (energy drinks), as well as medications and **bread dough**. Garbage is also quite appealing to our dogs. Bones that may be found in garbage could become lodged after eating and then present as a foreign body. Food covered tinfoil can also be eaten and cause a blockage. Most garbage involves **mold**. This mold can form toxins that can be very harmful to our pets. **Pennies and batteries** should be kept out of reach because dogs are known to eat them and both are hazardous to their health when ingested. Lastly, **polyurethane adhesives** and types of **glue** can expand when eaten and block up the stomach. If this happens the adhesive must be surgically removed.

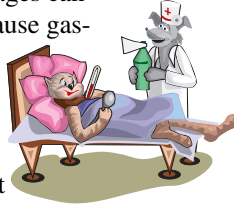


Toxins found outdoors include **rodenticides** (rodent poisons), **windshield washer fluid and antifreeze and cocoa mulch**. It is not advisable to use **D-con** or animal baits around your home or yard. These products are meant to be tasty so rodents eat them and dogs are known to find these animal baits and eat them without any owner knowledge. Zinc phosphide, an ingredient in mole and gopher baits, if ingested and then vomited can produce a gas that is toxic to humans. Auto fluids (washer fluid, antifreeze) need to be cleaned up before your pet drinks them. You may use an absorbent material, like clay kitty-litter, to soak chemicals up off the floor or drive. Then sweep up the debris so your pet does not attempt to ingest it.

Many plants are toxic as well. Toxins are found in the flowers, leaves, roots and seeds. Common toxic houseplants include **Chinese evergreen, philodendrons, and "lucky" bamboo**. Common bulb plants include **tulips, daffodils, narcissus sp, and hyacinths**. The bulbs of these plants are the most toxic part. Members of the **lily** family can be truly toxic to cats. The plants that are most problematic are from the genus **lilium** or **hemerocallis**. These include **Easter, tiger and day lilies**. Other toxic plants like **oleander, foxglove and lily-of-the-valley**, interfere with the rhythm of animals hearts. **Japanese yews**, commonly used for landscaping, are known to be dangerous for cattle, horses and goats. Try to keep only houseplants that are non-toxic in your home and flowerbeds or train your pets to stay away. **Mushrooms** can be very difficult to identify without a specialist. Some mushrooms are extremely toxic. If your pet does ingest them,

treatment and detoxification should be started at the clinic.

Lastly, human medications should be discussed. Pain medicine like **Tylenol** is not safe for pets. Cats cannot break down Tylenol, and it can be fatal if ingested. **Ibuprofen** is the number one cause of phone calls to poison control. Ibuprofen has a narrow margin of safety so over dosages can occur easily. Aspirin and Ibuprofen can cause gastrointestinal ulcers and higher doses or long term use can damage the liver.



**Pepto-Bismol**

contains an aspirin like ingredient so it is also not safe. For these reasons, we do not recommend using any of these pain medications in your pets. **Anti-depressants** dispensed for a variety of human conditions can cause mild to severe symptoms when eaten by our pets.

**Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and cold medications** contain amphetamines that can interfere with the heart and blood pressure and can lead to tremors or seizures.

**Muscle relaxants** like **Baclofen**, can present an immediate medical emergency that could require your pet to be on a ventilator to breathe. **Heart medications** are also extremely dangerous, because the human doses are significantly larger than for pets. Bedside tables and purses can be raided and potentially harmful medications (or gum) can be eaten without our noticing. Medications should be kept safe in a drawer or cabinet that pets cannot access.

Toxicity levels are dependent on the size of the animal. If we do not see the animal eat an item, it may not be possible to know how much they ate, and thus the possible toxicity level. Symptoms can vary from mild to severe so it is important to mention any possibility of exposure to your veterinarian. At the clinic we may run some diagnostics to further determine the problem. Your pet may need to vomit and be given activated charcoal to bind the toxin, if ingestion is recent. Sometimes intravenous fluids and hospitalization are required to flush the organs that the toxins would affect. Hopefully, by preventing exposure to toxins, we limit the need for emergency care. If your pet is acting abnormal or you have knowledge that your pet has eaten something toxic, please seek immediate veterinary care. If you have any questions about possible toxins please call our office or Poison Control (ASPCA) [www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control](http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control).

*As always, if there are any questions about the topics in this newsletter or any other topics, please call us or visit our website. All suggestions about our services, or new services that you would like, are encouraged.*

