

## October Newsletter

The Holidays are fast approaching! With all of the chocolate, candy, cookies, cakes, turkeys, and hams our furry friends would agree that it's "the most wonderful time of the year". It begins with Halloween and the bags of chocolate from trick or treating. Pretty much everyone is aware that chocolate is toxic to dogs. Baker's chocolate and dark chocolate are more toxic than milk chocolate. Signs of chocolate toxicity include vomiting, diarrhea, muscle tremors, seizures, abnormal heart rhythms, coma, and death. If your pet got into chocolate save the bag (unless they ate that too) so your veterinarian will know the type and amount that was ingested. The treatment will depend on the amount of chocolate ingested, type of chocolate, and clinic signs your pet is displaying. If indicated your veterinarian may induce vomiting and administer IV fluids.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are exciting times for the pets as well. We tend to see increased cases of pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas) from dogs eating the turkey or "counter surfing" and helping themselves to the side dishes. Ham bones may cause an intestinal obstruction. Although not a food item (for people) you should also be aware that poinsettias can be toxic to pets.

Be sure to call your veterinarian if you're concerned your pet ingested something toxic. We hope you have a happy holiday season!