

## **Household poisons**

Our houses seem such safe places, but you'd be amazed what's not so safe for your pet. Here's a few all too common examples seen in veterinary practice.

### **1) CHOCOLATE ( also coffee and tea)**

Toxins are found at their highest levels in dark chocolate. Signs of poisoning include hyperactivity, vomiting, diarrhoea, overheating, panting/hyperventilation, twitching of muscles and even fitting in severe cases.

### **2) LILLIES**

Cats only – causes vomiting, diarrhoea and kidney failure in severe cases.

### **3) ANTIFREEZE**

Unfortunately antifreeze is sweet tasting and so very palatable to animals. If consumed even in only small quantities it is lethal, causing irreversible kidney damage. As little as 4ml can be fatal to a cat.

### **4) GRAPES/RAISINS**

Grapes and raisins have been known to cause kidney failure in dogs and cats, the reason why is still not known. Within 6 hours of eating a toxic dose, affected animals show vomiting, lethargy, abdominal pain and increased or absence of urination

### **5) SLUG BAIT**

Some slug baits contain metaldehyde, as it is often scattered in the garden, some cats will eat it. Toxic doses cause vomiting, diarrhoea, salivation and fitting.

### **6) PARACETEMOL**

This is extremely poisonous to cats, the toxin damages red blood cells and prevents them from taking up oxygen. Signs include vomiting, diarrhoea, dark or blue tinged gums and lethargy.

### **7) ONION**

The toxin in onions (also to a lesser extent found in garlic) causes damage to red blood cells and results in anaemia. Cats are much more susceptible than dogs and even a small amount of baby food containing onion can be enough to affect them.

If you suspect that your pet has been poisoned your vet will need to know:

Why you think your pet has been exposed to a poison

When it happened and if you saw what and how much was eaten

Exactly what symptoms your pet is showing.

DO NOT try to make your pet sick unless the vet specifically tells you to do so, some poisons cause more damage on the way back up.

ALWAYS bring the packet /container of product that you think your pet has eaten with you to the vets.