



Happy Easter from the team at Clever Creatures!

DID YOU KNOW CHOCOLATE CAN BE TOXIC TO DOGS AND CATS?

Easter is coming up soon & this usually means extra chocolate around the house or Easter egg hunts.

For a small dog or cat it wouldn't take much chocolate to make them ill so make sure you keep the chocolate out of reach this Easter!

The ingredient that makes chocolate toxic to animals is theobromine. Theobromine is present in cocoa products. Cooking or dark chocolate contains the highest amount, followed by semi sweet chocolate & milk chocolate has the least amount.

Signs of toxicity can include panting, restlessness, vomiting and muscle tremors or tenseness. The animal may also become 'hyper' irritable or excitable. Some serious complications can also occur (such as seizures, heart failure and death). Minor problems can still occur with eating milk chocolate or small amounts of other human chocolates & the most common would be diarrhoea (usually 12-24 hours after eating the chocolate).

If you suspect chocolate poisoning it is important to contact your vet for immediate advice. The severity & urgency for treatment will depend on the size of your pet (smaller animals are more susceptible) and also the type of chocolate eaten; dark chocolate is much more toxic to animals than milk chocolate. If your dog or cat has consumed human chocolate but not yet showing signs it is still important to call your vet as prompt veterinary treatment could save their life.

Do not give chocolate to your dog or cat this Easter unless it is the 'choc treat' style safe for pets.

For more information or to request a topic for an up and coming edition please contact Sarah from Clever Creatures via the website at www.clevercreatures.com.au