

Melanie's blog – December 2010

Consume with moderation:

Most of us are guilty sometime of letting our beloved pets have a bit of something while we are eating. Especially if their brown eyes are so adoringly watching us while we eat our share of take out/ breakfast or dinner.

I am the first one to admit that my cat William gets a bit of pizza (he likes the cheese and tomato sauce, not so keen on the crust) when we order from Papa John's. Liffey the dog will then get the crust that the cats leave behind.

Some things are a little bit trickier and I don't want to get on a pedestal and preach here but some things are pretty no-no to animals.

Dogs used to be scavengers and there are quite a few ones out there that still have a stomach made out of iron, but our pedigree pooches nowadays have evolved a bit further away from the original mongrel roaming the streets and bins.



Raisins and grapes are a bit of a recent discovery that most people are aware of, oddly enough some dogs in France run through the vineyards, scoffing away and are ok, yet in another dog 2-3 raisins can cause acute kidney failure and death, unfortunately we cannot tell you which kind of dog you own, so err on the cautious side and don't feed raisins/grapes.

Also Xylitol, an artificial sweetener can cause liver failure, so if you use it for baking to keep your slim waistline, don't feed the muffins to the dog afterwards, as Xylitol causes a massive insulin release and consequently your mutt's head will hit the floor due to his low blood sugar. We here at Park Veterinary Centre have had one case where a young dog broke into the pantry and scoffed half a bag of the stuff! He is ok now after intensive treatment.



Don't forget Polos and chewing gum contain Xylitol as well.

And then there is the recurring theme of chocolate! Yum if you ask me but not so you for the dogs, toxic levels of milk chocolate are about 9 g/kg body weight for dogs so a 30 kg Labrador eating more than 270 g of chocolate gets into trouble. Dark chocolate is even worse as it contains more cocoa solids so when in doubt call us.





Lilies are well known now to most cat owners, beautiful in their vases (although I always think of them as funeral flowers) until they open their buds and their brown/orange stems stick out. Your cat can walk past the vase (William loves sitting on our dining room basking in the sun), rub some lily pollen on his coat and then groom himself. That can be enough for some serious kidney problem to arise later. Also remember that all of the lily plant is poisonous so if your mog is one of those that likes to have the occasional chew – beware!