



VCSG

Veterinary Care & Specialty Group

3201 Broad Street
Chattanooga, TN 37408
info@vcsgvets.com
www.vcsgvets.com

24/7/365



423-591-0270

December 2020

In this edition.....

Blood Bank (p. 1)

Ask the Vet (pp. 2-4)

Upcoming event - Journal Club (p. 1)

Vader's "Friends of the Month" (p. 2)

Blood Bank

Blood transfusions can be critical, life-saving procedures. Blood loss through trauma or toxins (e.g., anti-coagulant rodenticide poison) or destruction of a patient's red blood cells due to immune-mediated hemolytic anemia (IMHA) or ingestion of zinc (e.g., pennies) can quickly lead to severe anemia and possibly death, an outcome that can be averted through the administration of blood transfusion.

VCSG manages a volunteer blood donor program to meet the transfusion needs of the patients at our hospital. VCSG carefully screens both canine and feline donors for general health and infectious diseases to protect both the donor and the recipient.

For more information, email bloodbank@vcsgvets.com

**From all of us at VCSG
MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY HANUKKAH
FELIZ NAVIDAD
JOYEUX NOEL
FROHE WEIHNACHTEN**



Journal Club

Wednesday, Jan. 6

8:30 a.m.

Dr. Reid Groman

All Are Welcome!

**Details coming soon
on our website.**



Veterinary Care & Specialty Group

423-591-0270

24/7/365

Vader's Friends of the Month



Vader Pullen



Ask the Vet:

Uh oh....

What did you just eat?

Natasha Jones, DVM

How many times have you considered giving your pet something and thought...what might happen if I give this? Well, there is good reason to worry! With the holidays approaching, families will gather, spread joy and cheer amongst each other, and spend extra time with Fluffy. Let's talk about some common things that can make your pet sick and why you should avoid feeding them off the table. Aunt Edna, are you listening?

It is tempting to share your food with your animals, and, most of the time, it is harmless in small quantities. That being said, there are several food items that you need to avoid. There are many variables that determine how toxic the food ingested is, such as: how much was ingested; which part was eaten; and what size animal you have. The following list is not all-inclusive. If you are in doubt about whether certain foods are toxic, please use caution and contact your veterinarian first.

Charity Martin

REALTOR®
The Group Real Estate Brokerage, LLC
2646 Broad Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37408
423.331.0372 (c) | 423.531.9000 (h)
charitymartinrealstate@gmail.com
TheGroupChattanooga.com





(Continued from previous page)

Here is a list of common things NOT to feed your pets:

Chocolate:

Although tasty, the caffeine and methylxanthines in chocolate cause an increase in heart rate, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, restlessness, and sometimes death in pets. Please be aware that dark chocolate and baking chocolate can kill your pet if ingested. Watch the kids and don't sneak treats to Fluffy! Trust me, I have a nine-year-old.

Onions and Garlic:

Grandma Helen's stuffing would not be right without them, but anything in the onion family, including onions, chives, scallions, shallots, and leeks can cause anemia and lead to kidney damage in your pet. Feeding food off the table flavored with onion powder can be deadly to your furry loved one. Your dog or cat is not part vampire, so skip the garlic, too.

Dairy Products:

But he LOVES ice cream, Doc?!? Cheese, ice cream, and milk are very difficult for dogs and cats to digest. Dairy products can cause mild to severe gastrointestinal disease leading to pancreatitis, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Alcohol:

Holidays can bring festive parties and lots of unattended glasses around the house. It is best to separate your furry family member from the party. Ethanol can cause severe central nervous system and respiratory depression and death.

Nuts:

Awwwww Nuts.....Nuts are not easily digested by our furry friends and can lead to gastric upset or worse. Nuts can get lodged in the GI tract and can cause choking or an obstruction leading to emergency surgery at a high cost to you. Macadamia nuts can cause weakness, depression, vomiting, tremors, and a dangerously high fever in dogs.

Foods containing xylitol (a common sweetener in gum and peanut butter):

Xylitol is a sweetener that is found in gum products and sometimes, food like peanut butter. Take care when purchasing these products, because even the most miniscule amounts can be deadly to your pets.

Grapes and Raisins:

Even one little grape or raisin ingested by Fluffy can be fatal to a dog. These foods can cause kidney failure, so watch those fruit platters when entertaining!

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

Citrus Fruits:

Who doesn't love a good citrus basket at the holidays, right? This one might surprise you, but the stems, leaves, peels, fruit, and seeds of citrus plants such as lemons, oranges, and grapefruits contain varying amounts of citric acid that can be harmful to Fluffy. The acid is found all over the plants and can cause serious problems to their digestive systems.

Coconut and Coconut Oil:

It fixes everything, right??? When ingested in small amounts, coconut-based products are not likely to cause harm. In larger quantities, however, coconut can cause loose stool, GI upset, and diarrhea in animals. Dogs prone to pancreatitis should avoid coconut because of its high fat content.

Meats and Bones:

I can't speak for anyone else, but I don't think my pup would survive one day in the wild. I can picture her saying, "I have no idea what I'm doing," over and over. There is a lot of conflicting information about raw meat/bones/cooked meat for pets. There are a few risks to take under consideration. Raw diets can contain harmful bacteria like Salmonella and E. Coli that can be dangerous to our pets' digestive systems and their human companions. Feeding bones to animals may also be risky, because bones become brittle and can splinter off in their digestive tracts causing lacerations and obstructions. The potential for choking is very serious as well. The holidays are not a good time to give Fluffy a turkey leg, or you might end up at the ER instead of sitting on the couch with your new book and sipping cocoa.

Are there other things that your pets should avoid? Animals are curious creatures and given the opportunity, they will investigate everything. Someone told me that dogs and cats are like toddlers; they sample things in the world with their mouths. Here are a few holiday decorations from which to safeguard your pets as well.

Common Holiday Plants:

It's hard to resist decking the halls with holiday flora, like Poinsettias, but those dark leaves and velvety red petals can be hard to resist if you are a cat or dog. Poinsettias are not usually life-threatening, but can cause GI upset and diarrhea when ingested. Pine Christmas trees are toxic to cats causing liver damage, and those stray needles are sharp and can perforate a dog or cat's intestines, if ingested. Mistletoe and holly ingested can cause GI upset or, in the worst case scenario, cardiovascular collapse.

The holidays should be filled with family and happiness. These simple tips can make you and your pet have a safe and healthy holiday season. Happy Holidays!