

## COMPANION ANIMAL NEWS DECEMBER 2006

Remember there are **holiday dangers** for your pets this season. Please keep them away from any **chocolate**. We've already had several calls about pets getting into chocolate. Although it rarely causes death, it may cause them to be very sick with diarrhea, vomiting and restlessness. If you know they've eaten it within the last hour or so, you can and should induce vomiting with hydrogen peroxide. A large dog should get about 2 oz of peroxide. We often recommend a turkey baster or syringe to get it down. The vomiting should start about 10 minutes after the peroxide gets down. You can repeat the peroxide one more time if it doesn't work the first time. Feel free to call us if that doesn't work!

For kitties, avoid using any tinsel on your Christmas tree. Also avoid putting any additives (besides sugar) in your tree water. Flocking is also a danger to animals, so stay away from that as well. Ornaments can be an issue if they are eaten, either whole or in pieces. We know it's hard to watch your pets all the time, but do your best to avoid letting them get into these situations. We also recommend resisting the temptation to give them all your leftovers. We do see significant weight gain in your pets over the winter. Try to make a commitment to avoid that this year!

If you have any questions about what is or isn't safe for your pet this time of year, just give us a call.

There is a **new vaccine out for dogs**. It is called Porphyromonas bacterin, and is designed to help control **periodontal disease**. It is especially recommended for small breed dogs because they tend to have more dental problems. It can be used as young as 7 weeks of age, needs 1 booster at 1 month, and then yearly. It can also be used in adults after they have received a dental cleaning to try and lengthen the time until the next cleaning.

Speaking of teeth, we have seen many dogs with fractured teeth lately. Some of whom had been chewing on Nylabones®. Please be cautious with these if your dog is an aggressive chewer!

A reminder that **February is dental health month**. We will again be offering a 5% discount on all dental cleanings for that month. Set yours up early, we fill up fast!

Have a wonderful Christmas and happy New Year! Thank you so much for allowing Grassland Veterinary Service to provide your companion animal health care!

Dr. Jean Liljegren

Janet Kapusta CVT

Cindy Ure receptionist

Dr. Jessica Woodrow

Tracey Boeson VT

Tina Ashton VA

Wendy Lindner CVT

Jeannette Bymers OM

Emily Laws VA