

LAKE COUNTRY VETERINARY CARE

OCTOBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

Very often our little feline friends are overlooked in our newsletters. No matter how hard we try to give them equal time, it seems that there is always more information out there about dogs!

We have found some very interesting information gathered by the Animal Poison Control Center. These items are the 10 most frequently reported toxic exposures to cats over the past 4 years.

> Insecticides, and very frequently canine products, can have serious medical effects on cats. If labeled for dog use only, these products should only be used on dogs. Cats can also accidentally acquire toxic levels by sleeping next to a dog that has been treated with certain pesticides. We all know that cats tend to groom a lot and inadvertent ingestion can cause toxic blood levels with serious consequences.

> Human medications accidentally swallowed can cause a host of medical conditions including kidney failure, liver problems, neurologic disorders and seizures. Keep your medications off the night stand and in a secure cabinet.

> NSAIDs or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs are not tolerated well by cats. It is extremely easy to overdose them. Some common medications are flavored in order to be more palatable to pets and this can cause unforeseen toxic response when too many are consumed. Again, keep medications in a cabinet.

> Rodenticides have remained a problem for years. There are several different kinds of poison for rodents and they are all potentially lethal for pets.

> Plants, in particular lilies, can cause acute kidney failure in cats. Ingestion of any part of the lily, even the pollen, may cause irreversible and fatal kidney damage within 6 hours. The smallest exposure should be treated immediately and aggressively.

> While the next item is not particularly toxic, accidental contact may cause hypersalivation and vomiting in cats. The Glo-sticks and Glo-necklaces that

children have (usually in the summer) can make great cat toys. Almost immediately after biting into one, cats exhibit signs of agitation, hypersalivation and sometimes vomiting. It can be fairly easy to tell if a cat has bitten into one of these toys by taking them into a dark room. Washing off any excess fluid is helpful and offering something tasty to eat can get rid of the bad taste in their mouth. These things will lessen the symptoms.

>The last item on the list is liquid potpourri. Cats can lick the contents of a potpourri container or lick their fur if accidentally spilled. Some of the ingredients can be corrosive to the oral mucosa and cause gastrointestinal upset. Dilution with milk or water should be performed. Vomiting should NOT be induced. Recovery is usually good unless esophageal damage has occurred.

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