



Easter chocolate and other goodies

Easter is the time for chocolates, easter egg hunts and hot cross buns. However, Easter can also be a dangerous time for our pets.

Chocolates: If you are planning on an Easter egg hunt, make sure that your pet does not have access to the chocolates and be sure to count exactly how many are hidden around the place before your pet is allowed back into the 'hunt area'. Theobromine and caffeine are two key ingredients that can be found in chocolate and can make your pet sick. The toxic level depends on the size of your pet and the type of chocolate ingested. Darker chocolate is more potent, with as little as 130g potentially a lethal dose for a 10kg dog. Signs to watch out for include vomiting, diarrhoea, restlessness, excitement, seizures, depression, coma and death.



Foil wrapping: The foil surrounding Easter eggs can also be dangerous if ingested, as it may cause an intestinal obstruction in your pet.

Hot cross buns: contain sultanas and raisins, and these can cause significant and often irreversible damage to your pet's kidneys. The most common symptom of ingestion is vomiting. There may be lethargy, lack of appetite and diarrhoea. Signs of acute kidney failure may include nausea, lack of appetite, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, excessive thirst and excessive urination.



Xylitol: An artificial sweetener found in gum, mints and sugar-free lollies. It is extremely toxic to dogs and can cause low blood sugar (hypoglycaemia), seizures, liver failure and even death.

Easter lilies: are particularly dangerous to cats. Ingestion of just the smallest amount of any of the lily plant / flower may cause intoxication and even death. Signs to watch out for are depression, lethargy and vomiting - if left untreated, acute kidney or kidney failure may occur.

