

### Staff Updates

We've recently said goodbye to our head nurse **Emma McGowan**. Emma has moved to Melbourne with her husband so we wish her all the luck with this new adventure!

Our part time vet, **Laura Moore**, has decided to pursue her passion for statistics by accepting a position with a bank. Laura will continue working the occasional weekend at 4 Paws Vet, most specifically conducting ultrasounds.

**Rachel Lowry** has accepted the position of Head Veterinary Nurse. Rachel has been working at 4 Paws Vet for 2 years and has previous experience as a head nurse in the UK. Well done Rachel!

**Charlotte Sykes** has also accepted more responsibility at 4 Paws Vet being promoted into the Senior Veterinary nurse position. Congratulations Charlotte!

**Amy Grover** joined 4 Paws Vet as a Veterinary nurse in February. Amy comes to us with 5 years of nursing experience. Welcome Amy!

**Kirsten Hunt** has also increased her veterinary duties at 4 Paws Vet. Kirsten has fulfilled the role of locum Vet at 4 Paws for many years now. We feel very fortunate that she has now accepted a regular position with us.

### Why can't my dog have chocolate?

Most of us love to enjoy a bit of chocolate every now and again, but while it is a tasty treat for people it can cause your dog to become ill. Did you know that chocolate is TOXIC to dogs?

Puppies and younger dogs are most commonly affected, usually because they are less fussy and will eat lots of things they're not supposed to very quickly. Chocolate also tastes very nice (even to dogs)!

The amount of chocolate that is toxic to any one dog depends on the size of your dog. Smaller dogs need to eat a much smaller amount of chocolate before they are poisoned, whereas larger dogs usually need to eat a larger amount of chocolate to cause poisoning. Dogs can tolerate a tiny amount of chocolate but it is best to keep it well out of reach, just in case.



**DO NOT EVER GIVE YOUR DOG CHOCOLATE AS A TREAT!** There are many tasty treats made for dogs that you can buy from the pet store – try a pig's ear or liver treats, your dog will LOVE them!

**Chocolate contains substances that can be toxic to dogs. Do not ever give your dog chocolate as a treat. Call 4 Paws Vet if you suspect your dog has eaten chocolate as dogs which are promptly treated, recover well.**

The toxic dose of chocolate is thought to be 250g of DARK chocolate for a 15kg dog; 100mg MILK chocolate for a 15kg dog. Dark chocolate is much more toxic to dogs than white or milk chocolate. Dark cooking chocolate is probably the most dangerous as it contains more toxic substances.

The signs that are often seen if a dog eats chocolate include:

- Very rapid heart rate
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Restlessness or excitement
- Urinating more than normal
- Stiffness
- Seizures
- And worst of all, death

It is important to remember that some of the more subtle signs can (and often do) progress to more serious signs very quickly, so it is always wise to talk to a vet if you are worried.

If your dog becomes ill and you think that they may have been able to eat some chocolate it is important to tell your vet straight away so that they can give your dog the best treatment possible, as chocolate toxicity can be fatal. Most dogs that are brought to the vet quickly, and are treated, recover well.

## **Heart Broken?**

The signs of heart disease are:

- Coughing – especially when your pet wakes up from sleep
- Intolerance to exercise
- A fatter looking abdomen
- Difficulty breathing
- Collapse or fainting

If your dog is exhibiting any of these clinical signs we recommend that you bring your pet in to see a vet.

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The vet may ask you questions like:

- Is your pet breathing faster than normal?
- Is your pet eating and drinking/urinating normally?

Breeds which are more prone to heart disease are Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and Dobermans. Female dogs are more prone to congenital heart disease.

## **PETS IN THE CITY NEWS**

### **FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**

The Pets in the City Facebook page is off and running and well worth a visit. We are committed to keeping it choc full of news you want to hear, exclusive offers, competitions and giveaways.

### **CHEMICAL FREE FLEA TRAPS**

Are you looking for a way to permanently rid your home of fleas without resorting to flea bombs?

The new Natrapest flea trap can clear up to 90% of fleas and larvae in a room in just one night, using no chemicals whatsoever!

When used in conjunction with your pet's regular flea control product, these traps will break the flea breeding cycle once and for all, by eliminating all the fleas, eggs and larvae from your pets environment.

Come in and ask us how.