SEASONS VETERINARY CLINIC

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October, 2020 Newsletter

Tip #1 for Cooler Weather!

As we all begin winterizing our homes, properties and vehicles, one of the risks to remember is: <u>**Mouse/Rodent Poison:**</u> "Rodenticides" as these chemicals are called, are masked as tasty morsels. They are often placed around sheds and outbuildings/garages to prevent mice and rats from moving in for the winter. Once consumed, they prevent the action of Vitamin K_1 in the body, which is essential for a mammal to be able to clot their blood. Once enough is consumed, the animal loses the ability to prevent fatal hemorrhage; even something as mundane as bumping into a wall can result in fatal bleeding. Historically, the chemical used was Warfarin, and although a nasty toxin, dogs and cats could only be poisoned if they consumed the actual toxin itself. Newer generations of rodenticide are even more toxic – and a dog or cat can receive fatal levels of these chemicals by eating the rodenticide, or a rodent that has died from consuming one of these newer generation rodenticides. *If poisoning is suspected, bringing the package that shows the ingredients to the vet makes coming up with a treatment plan much easier.* <u>**How do we treat rodenticide poisoning?**</u> If an owner thinks there is even a small chance that this poison has been consumed within the last 1-2 hours, we have the pet brought into the clinic and we induce vomiting. Research shows only about 40% of the stomach contents will be emptied, even with aggressive vomiting. So once we have done our best to empty out any of the poison, or if it has been more than 2 hours since the pet may have consumed the rodenticide or dead rodent, we start treating with Vitamin K_1. If we supply Vitamin K_1 to the body to replace that which the rodenticide inactivates, then we can prevent bleeding despite the rodenticide being in the body. Depending on the active ingredient, this treatment can be needed for a whopping 6 weeks after exposure (don't worry, Vitamin K_1 is given orally, so you can continue treatment at home). It can take up to a week after poisoning for bleeding to start, but we never want to wait that long. Once they start bleeding it is an incredibly tough, uphill battle to win, and there are no guarantees we will be successful once we hit the point of having active bleeding.

<u>**Prevention:**</u> Keep rodenticides in areas that only a small mammal can reach, never a dog or cat, and if you are new to a property, look around closely for any signs that the previous owners used rodenticide – or even ask them if possible. If you have even the slightest concern that your pet may have been exposed, call your vet right away! This is one where an ounce of prevention is truly worth a pound of cure!

Manitoba Tick & Heartworm Report, Sept 25, 2020:
- 513 dogs positive for Lyme disease
- 50 dogs positive for heartworm disease
- 222 dogs positive for Anaplasma
- 30 dogs tested positive for Ehrlichia
Reporting of these diseases is not mandatory, so many unreported tests are also done.

Don't forget the last two doses of tick and heartworm prevention: Oct. 1st and Nov. 1st. Ticks don't hibernate, they just stop moving when there is a good snow cover (usually by Dec. 1st when the Nov dose stops working), and heartworm prevention works in reverse: so the Nov. dose kills any little heartworms that might have been picked up by straggler mosquitoes in October.

Trivia Corner!

The first person to call in with the correct answer to the following questions wins a gift card to Ihop! Second place wins a gift card to The Earl of Sandwich!

1. **What are the names of 2 second generation rodenticides?**
2. **How do 1st and 2nd gen. rodenticides work?**
3. **How do we treat rodenticide ingestion?**

(must be a current client who has not won in the past 6 months)

Best wishes from all of us at Seasons for a special Thanksgiving Holiday! Drs. Bronwyn and Leigh Chisholm, Arleigh, Melissa, Stephanie, Kendall and Dragana!