

## HAPPY EASTER!!!

### **Easter Candy:**

Chocolate shaped like adorable Easter rabbits, Marshmallow Peeps shaped like cute little chicks and Jelly Beans shaped like Easter eggs. It is okay for humans to look forward to these treats, but, unfortunately, so do some animals. When it comes to dogs, they especially like to hound around for some chocolate and sugar as soon as they see those foil packages.

Unfortunately for dogs, chocolate tastes really, really good. If your dog ingests enough chocolate or sugar, it can kill your dog. For chocolate, it is Methylxanthines and Theobromine that are harmful to dog. Methylxanthines act as a stimulant to our pets. The darker the chocolate, the more methylxanthines it contains. Theobromine is a stimulant found in the cocoa plant. Many people often get Theobromine confused with caffeine and while they have similar effects, eating a piece of chocolate will not give a human the rush a cup of coffee does. Chocolate will still give a sugar rush, but don't eat it if you're up late studying for an exam. In dogs, Methylxanthines and Theobromine can cause agitation, vomiting, diarrhea, high heart rate, and/or muscle tremors which can lead to seizures and possibly death.

As for peeps, and jelly beans, the sugar content in these candies is unbelievable! There is approximately 2 - 4 cups of sugar in every package of peeps, and about 2 cups in every package of jelly beans. The sugar can have the same effect on your dogs as chocolate as well as extremely agitated behavior, and aggression. As far as "Sugar-Free" jelly beans go, they tend to contain sugar substitutes which act as a catalyst for terrible events. The artificial sweeteners they contain have the same properties as Xylitol, even if they don't put a name on it. The amount of Xylitol in sugar-free gum is outrageous. For example, the amount of Xylitol in 2 pieces of gum could cause a 15-20 lb dog to become hypoglycemic. Hypoglycemia is what happens when the blood-sugar drops to dangerously low levels. 10-12 pieces of gum can cause liver failure, and possible shock, seizures or death if not caught in time.

If you have any reason to suspect your pet has ingested something toxic, please contact East-West Animal Hospital or the Animal Poison Control Center's 24-hour hotline at (888) 426-4435.



### **Insecticides and Rodenticides:**

Trying to do a little spring cleaning in preparation for Easter Dinner? Little critters that we don't want in our house tend to show up every year after the weather finally turns nice. There are a few ingredients to think about when it comes to killing these pests when your animals are around.

About 20% of the calls to the APCC are about insecticides. Insecticides are commonly used on our pets for flea control and around out houses to control crawling and flying bugs. The most serious poisonings occur when products that are not labeled for use on cats were applied to them. Always follow label directions.

Baits used to kill mice and rats are mostly grain based. Not only does this attract rodents, but it attracts dogs and cats. There are several different types of rodenticides that can cause seizures, internal bleeding, or kidney failure. Always make sure these items are placed in areas that pets cannot access.



### **Itchy Scratchy?**

(Come to our Seminar this month!)

With the weather changing from Cold to Hot in the past few weeks and in the upcoming weeks, many pets are going to be scratching a lot more than normal. Seasonal allergies as well as downright dry skin can cause mild to severe discomfort in pets. There are many different options for controlling this itch, including sprays, salves, shampoos and balms, available from East-West Animal Hospital. Do not hesitate to call us or email us ([team@eastwestanimalhospital.com](mailto:team@eastwestanimalhospital.com)) to find out about these different products. It's almost easier than finding a solution for humans!



**Eggs: Dyed and Plastic!**

Shiny plastic eggs may look like toys to your pets. If they chew and swallow the plastic, it can cause intestinal problems that may require surgery. Fresh, hardboiled eggs are not dangerous, but eggs spoil quickly. If days later your pet finds and eats an egg that was undiscovered during the Easter hunt, it can make them very sick. Tip: Keep track of the number of eggs hidden and make sure all are accounted for at the end of the hunt.

**Signs Your Pet Needs Attention Immediately:**

- Vomiting/Diarrhea
- Unintended weight-loss/gain
- Change in appetite-decreased or increased
- Change in normal activity level:
  - Lethargy
  - Hyperactivity
  - Restlessness
- Limping
- Sudden inability to move back legs or collapse
- Crying when touched
- Clumsy/disoriented behavior
- Seizures
- Any loss of consciousness
- Coughing (especially at night)
- Any difficult or labored breathing
- Any blue, purple, or pale hue to the tongue or gums
- Excessive drooling
- Change in urination:
  - Location
  - Frequency
  - Amount
  - Color
  - Smell
- Straining in the litter box without producing urine
- Panting in a cat
- Bloated abdomen
- Sneezing excessively
- Uncontrolled bleeding from any orifice
- Bruising anywhere
- Any unusual odor or hair loss
- Runny nose, eyes, or squinting

**Contact:**

Phone: 813-948-6534  
Fax: 813-949-5533  
1524 Land O' Lakes Blvd  
Lutz, FL 33549

**Emergencies (8p-6a):**

Tampa Bay VES  
813-265-4043  
238 E Bearss Ave  
Tampa, FL 33613



**Pet Odor Eliminator:**

East-West Animal Hospital is pleased to announce that we now carry the full line of Pet Odor Eliminator Products; Including Candles, Air Fresheners and Car Fresheners.

**Rewards:**

The East-West Animal Hospital Rewards Card helps us reward valuable clients like you with products from our hospital and other local retailers, remember one dollar spent is one point. The best part of the program is that you earn **500** points when you refer other clients to our hospital so that they can also receive the highest level of care.



**Urine-Off Cat Formula – Urine-Off Dog Formula**

**Urine-Off:**

East-West Animal Hospital is also pleased to announce that we now carry Urine-Off, A veterinary strength Odor and Stain Removal for Cats and Dogs.

**Pet I.D. Cards:**

East-West Animal Hospital will now be offering Pet I.D. Cards as a bonus for our wonderful furry friends. They are being offered through Vet Street and are free of charge. Next time you stop by our practice, be sure to bring your fuzzy children with you to have their picture taken for their I.D. cards.

**Pet Portal:**

We strongly encourage you to sign up for Pet Portal. It is and quick and easy way to access information about your pets, including lab results, appointment information, and reminders due for your pets. Please visit our website for more information.

**Office Hours:**

Monday and Friday: 7.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.  
Tues, Wed, and Thurs: 7.30 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.  
Phone: 813.948.6534 ----- Fax: 813.949.5533