

DR. MULDER TALKS PET CARE



Dr. Mulder is the owner and medical director of the Pet Hospital, located at 403 Fairview Drive in Brantford. While treating the 'whole' patient, his experience in emergency medicine, nutrition and 20 years as a general practitioner, allows him to lead the team as they

serve the client, helping to meet all their pets' needs. This advice column is provided to help loving pet owners to make decisions in the care of their pet. If you have a question for Dr. Mulder, please send an email to drmulder@fairviewpet.ca or call the Pet Hospital at 519-753-7257.

Easter Chocolates Toxic?

Why is that every Christian holiday is celebrated with Chocolates? Don't get me wrong, I love chocolate, but so do some of our dogs! After every celebrated holiday, I inevitably get the call from a concerned dog owner who has come home to chewed wrappers and a guilty look from their dog.

The Easter bunny in all its chocolate incarnations is one of the worst offenders. The dose of chocolate to make a dog sick, depends on the amount of genuine chocolate in the candy. Thankfully many of our favorite chocolates do not contain large amounts of the actual chocolate. If your dog has eaten some chocolate candy, call a veterinarian right away so calculations can be made to see if there is a concern. Since there is no specific antidote, it is always better to use an ounce of prevention rather than be missing a pound of chocolate!

It is interesting that this focus on chocolate on the Christian holidays has a potential toxic effect on us humans too. Easter is the most significant celebration in the Christian calendar. Sure we celebrate the birth of our Saviour at Christmas but Easter is when Christ's purpose on earth was fulfilled. On Good Friday, we remember Jesus' crucifixion. His sinless life did not deserve that kind of ending but He endured the torture and the cross. As the Bible says, He could have called down legions of angels to help Him escape. What could make Him endure that torture? Knowing that He was paying the debt that people like me owed, He gladly stepped in to rescue. Now, taking someone's punishment is very noble and there are many who have shown that kind of love to their country or cause. What makes Jesus' death worth the celebration? His gift of salvation was to take the penalty of my sin against God. How do we know that God accepted this substitution? Easter Monday is the proof!! When Jesus was raised from the dead, an act only possible by God, and appeared to His disciples and over 500 witnesses, it was proof that the Heavenly Father was pleased to accept Jesus' death in place of mine! I am now free from the sin-debt I owed to my Creator and can live a new life with Him forever. Now that is worth celebrating, with or without the chocolate!

I would hate to think that the focus on chocolate could prevent people from seeing this amazing truth. If we do, we would still be responsible for our sin-debt, the penalty being our physical and spiritual death, a toxic effect if I've ever seen one. When it comes to our physical health, we are all appropriately concerned about diseases without a cure. Our sin sickness has no cure that we can work out on our own, it requires the substitution that Christ offered on the cross. If we miss out on that, our disease will end in our death. With Christ, physical death becomes but a

doorway to eternal life where the splendors God has prepared for us there far outweigh anything here on earth. Don't settle for just the chocolate, His invitation is still open to all who will believe!



Happy Easter!



Fairview Drive Pet Hospital
403 Fairview Drive, Brantford, ON N3R 6T2

519•753•7257

www.fairviewpet.ca email: info@fairviewpet.ca

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