



Mountainview Animal Hospital

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CANNABIS IN PETS

The Bottom Line

The cannabis plant produces chemical compounds called cannabinoids. There are at least 85 different cannabinoids that have been identified. The two most abundant and talked about cannabinoids are THC and CBD.

THC is the psychoactive cannabinoid that causes the high that recreational users enjoy and the CBD is the cannabinoid of medical interest.



Over the years, society has certainly seen a shift in the attitude concerning the use of marijuana. For veterinarians, this has been a mixed blessing. In the past, suspected pet poisonings from marijuana exposure were often a challenge to diagnose and treat, because pet owners were reluctant to admit to possessing the product. Sometimes, veterinarians were able to get a client to acknowledge that their dog may have gotten into their "friends" stash. Fortunately today, people are more open to discussing marijuana use so the veterinarian is not left guessing if the pet's strange symptoms are due to marijuana exposure.

There is a down side to our new acceptance of this plant and its related products, the Pet Poison Helpline reports a 448% increase in marijuana poisoning cases in dogs and cats over the past 6 years. Pets become exposed from second hand smoke or from eating the plants, its products or baked goods.

Marijuana poisoning can cause symptoms within minutes to hours:

- Incoordination (walking drunk)
- Dilated or constricted pupils
- Lethargy to severe depression
- Respiratory depression
- Low or high heart rate
- Low blood pressure
- Hypothermia (low body temperature)
- Hyperactivity
- Vocalization
- Drooling
- Vomiting
- Incontinence (dribbling urine)
- Seizures
- Coma
- Rarely, death

Marijuana poisoning is an emergency. The goal of treatment is to remove the product from the body, support the blood pressure with intravenous fluids, help them breathe, stop or prevent seizures, stop the vomiting, and warm the body if the patient has become cold. While full recovery may take several days, prognosis is usually good.

Prevention:

Avoid smoking and vaping around pets and children, the second hand smoke, particularly from more potent products, can be toxic. Keep plants, products and edibles out of their reach. Remember, they won't stop at one brownie or cookie, they will eat the whole tray!

If you suspect that your pet has been exposed to marijuana and its derivatives, please contact the Pet Poison Helpline at (855) 764-7661 and seek veterinary care immediately.

A Warning from the College of Veterinarians Of Ontario (CVO)

The mission of the CVO is to serve the public by regulating the practice of veterinary medicine in Ontario. With the legalization of the Cannabis Act in Canada, the CVO has published "Helping your clients understand the impact of the Cannabis Act on animal welfare in Ontario". In this bulletin they caution pet owners:

"Currently, there are no approved drugs with cannabis or cannabidiol (CBD) for animals. There are veterinary health products (VHP) with hemp that are approved for sale in Canada; these are low risk substances and do not make health claims. VHPs can contain ingredients such as hemp seed derivatives containing no more than 10 ppm THC, which will be exempt from the Cannabis Act. These products can be identified by a notification number on the label. Pet owners should be aware of unapproved products being marketed to consumers. If a cannabis product does not have a drug identification number (DIN) or a notification number (VHP) then its safety and efficacy cannot be verified.

The public should also be cautioned to keep any cannabis for human use away from pets due to the risk of poisoning if their pet accidentally ingests it. The current evidence on safe dosages for CBD for animals is limited. There are ongoing studies to evaluate the safety and efficacy of CBD and cannabis-based products for animals."

HOLIDAY PET POISONS

Holiday Ornaments:

- Tinsel should be avoided in any house with a cat. Eating tinsel can cause serious and life threatening intestinal disease.
- Bubble lights contain a chemical called Methylene chloride that is toxic when ingested.
- Snow globes, some new imported globes contain antifreeze. Even small amounts of antifreeze is toxic to pets when ingested. Keep them away from pets that may chew them, or knock them over and drink the liquid.
- Candles and heated wax potpourri are particularly dangerous to curious cats who can be burned while investigating these items.

Holiday foods:

- Chocolate. Every year we treat several dogs who have gotten into the box of chocolates. Even wrapped, those noses can sniff them out.
- Grapes, raisins and currants are in many holiday treats and are toxic to dogs
- Xylitol is an artificial sweetener found in many gums and candies. In dogs, it can cause a life threatening drop in blood sugar, and liver failure.
- High fat treats, people food, and in particular gravies, can cause a pancreatitis in pets. It is best to avoid giving your pets people food over the holidays and stick as close as possible to their regular diet routine.

Plants:

- Poinsettia
- Holly
- Mistletoe
- Lilies are often added to holiday and Easter bouquets but are extremely toxic, particularly to cats.

The Bottom Line

There are currently no approved drugs with cannabis or cannabidiol (CBD) for animals.

Ethylene Glycol is an odourless, colourless, and sweet tasting liquid found in anti-freeze, de-icing solutions, radiator coolants and snow globes. It causes vomiting, stomach pain, seizures, kidney failure and brain damage. Drinking even small amounts of anti-freeze is often fatal. Make sure to use a funnel when pouring anti-freeze or coolant into your car to avoid spillage, keep it out of reach of children and pets and keep snow globes in a safe place.



**December
Holidays around
the world:**

*Christmas: a
Christian holiday
celebrating the
birth of Christ*

*Hanukkah:
Commemorates
the re-dedication
of the Second
Temple in
Jerusalem
following the
Maccabean Revolt.
During this time,
the miracle of the
eight night flame
occurred.*

*Kwanzaa is an
African-American
week long
celebration of life.
It was first
introduced in
1966 by Dr.
Maulana Karenga.*

*Boxing Day:
The holiday
originated in the
United Kingdom
during the middle
ages. It was the
day when the
collection boxes
for the poor were
opened and
distributed. It was
also the day
servants were
given off to
celebrate
Christmas with
their families.*

*Omisoka:
New Year's Eve is
considered the
second-most
important day in
Japanese
tradition, the most
important being
New Year's Day.*

TIME WITH TUX

Forrest Gump has been quoted "Life is like a box of chocolate, you never know what you're going to get". Well, he has clearly never worked in a veterinary hospital, because around here, we know exactly what you get from a box of chocolates.....a trip to the vets. Every Easter, Halloween and Christmas the doctors are giving dogs medicine to make them vomit up the "box of chocolates" they ate. As a cat, the superior species of course, I just watch and shake my head in disbelief. Pff, you'd never see a cat consume a whole box of chocolates.



Ugh, I just got in trouble from Dr. Ewing for chewing on her plastic lunch bag. I guess I don't look so superior now.

HOLIDAY HOURS



Dec. 24th – Christmas Eve: Open 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Dec. 25th – Christmas Day: Closed

Dec. 26th – Wednesday: Closed

Dec. 31st – New Years Eve: Open 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Jan 1st – New Years Day: Closed

Unless otherwise specified here, Mountainview Animal Hospital will be open during its regular office hours. Animals in the hospital over the holidays will receive the same great care and attention as always. For those patients requiring emergency care over Christmas and New Years, the Emergency Veterinary Clinic on Hwy 10 will be open to serve your pet's medical and surgical needs. You can call ahead at 905-495-9907 or go directly there. The Emergency Veterinary Clinic is located on the south east corner of Highway 10 and Wexford Rd, just one block north of Bovaird (Highway 7).

*From all of us at Mountainview Animal
Hospital,
we wish all of you*

*A Very Merry Christmas,
A Joyous Holiday Season
and
A Happy New Year*

