



May 2009

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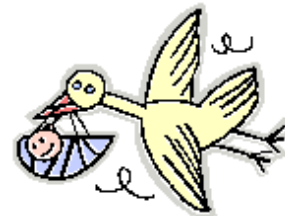
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## Welcome Dr. Webb! Congratulations Dr. Chediak!

We would like to welcome to Glastonbury Dr. Jennifer Webb, who joined the Beckett & Associates Veterinary Team this past month. She is a mixed animal veterinarian who recently graduated from St. George's University in Grenada, West Indies. Prior to receiving her DVM, she attended Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts; she also spent some time at Texas A & M University during her clinical rotations. Dr. Webb's background includes extensive externships in both Connecticut & Massachusetts, as well as spending some time as a riding instructor & camp counselor at Mount Holyoke. Dr. Webb is an avid horse enthusiast, spending much of her spare time riding & showing her hunter-jumper, Wyatt or with her two dogs, Pepper & Savannah. If you're in the area, please take a moment to welcome her to our Beckett Vet team!

In addition, we also want to take a moment to wish the best of luck to Dr. Chediak & her husband, who will be expecting their first child this July!



Beckett & Associates Veterinary Services, LLC online pet store allows you to buy all your pet supplies instantly and at your own convenience. We offer everything from pet health products, to toys and treats.

No time to go to the pet store, that's okay [Order Online](#) and have your pet supplies delivered to your home.

**Contact  
Beckett & Associates  
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860-659-0848  
1269 Main St

## Spring Toxins

Calling all cat owners! Please keep in mind that as spring has finally sprung, so have the ever-popular lily plants. The lily plant has just recently made the Animal Poison Control Center's 2008 list of top 10 pet poisons. Just a few nibbles on a lily can cause life-threatening kidney problems for your favorite furry feline. Other plants rounding out the APCC's list were: rhododendron, azalea, sago palm, schefflera & kalanchoe.

Dog owners should be aware, too. As the flowers start to bloom & the weather begins to warm up, many of us are outside planting & doing yard work. Cocoa mulch can be lethal to dogs – it contains the same ingredient as chocolate: theobromine. This smooth textured, sweet smelling mulch has caused plenty of families' heart-ache. According to the ASPCA, cocoa mulch has an even higher concentration of theobromine than chocolate, making it even more lethal if ingested. Just 9 ounces can be lethal to a 50 pound dog. Owners beware!



For a list of toxic & non-toxic plants, please visit: <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/>.

Source: Firstline

## Learn to Recognize the Signs of Laminitis

Glastonbury, CT 06033

Office Hours

Monday - Friday:  
7:30 a.m.- 6 p.m.

Saturday:  
8:30 a.m.- 1 p.m.

24-hour Large Animal  
Emergency Coverage



Pet Angels provides animal lovers a direct link to local rescues in Connecticut. Our Pet Lost & Found allows users to search for their lost pet or post a found animal. Visitors can also put up their animals for adoption.

Pet Angels was created by Beckett and Associates Veterinary Services, LLC and is a free service to those looking to adopt or rescue their next – or first – pet.

Visit [Pet Angels](#) to find out more

(compliments of the American Association of Equine Practitioners)

Every day veterinarians across the country see hundreds of cases of laminitis, a painful disease that affects the feet of horses. Laminitis results from the disruption of blood flow to the sensitive and insensitive laminae within the foot, which secure the coffin bone to the hoof wall. While the exact mechanisms by which the feet are damaged remain a mystery, certain precipitating events can produce laminitis. Although laminitis occurs in the feet, the underlying cause is often a disturbance elsewhere in the horse's body.



As a horse owner, it is important to recognize the signs of laminitis and seek veterinary help immediately. Signs of acute laminitis include the following:

- Lameness, especially when a horse is turning in circles; shifting lameness when standing.
- Heat in the feet.
- Increased digital pulse in the feet.
- Pain in the toe region when pressure is applied with hoof testers.
- Reluctant or hesitant gait, as if "walking on eggshells."
- A "sawhorse stance," with the front feet stretched out in front to alleviate pressure on the toes and the hind feet "camped out" or positioned farther back than normal to bear more weight.

Signs of chronic laminitis may include the following:

- Rings in hoof wall that become wider as they are followed from toe to heel.
- Bruised soles or "stone bruises."
- Widened white line, commonly called "seedy toe," with occurrence of blood pockets and/or abscesses.
- Dropped soles or flat feet.
- Thick, "cresty" neck.
- Dished hooves, which are the result of unequal rates of hoof growth.

If you suspect laminitis, consider it a medical emergency and notify your veterinarian immediately. The sooner treatment begins, the better the chance for recovery. For information about laminitis, ask us for the "Laminitis: Prevention and Treatment" brochure provided by the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) in association with Bayer Animal Health, an AAEP Educational Partner. Additional information also can be found on the AAEP's horse health Web site, [www.myHorseMatters.com](http://www.myHorseMatters.com).

The American Association of Equine Practitioners, headquartered in Lexington, Ky., was founded in 1954 as a non-profit organization dedicated to the health and welfare of the horse. Currently, the AAEP reaches more than 5 million horse owners through its over 9,000 members worldwide and is actively involved in ethics issues, practice management, research and continuing education in the equine veterinary profession and horse industry.

## People Foods to Avoid Feeding Your Pets

(compliments of ASPCA.org)

Chocolate, Macadamia nuts, avocados...these foods may sound delicious to you, but are actually quite dangerous to our animal companions. Our ASPCA nutrition experts have come up with a list of top 10 people foods that you should not feed your pet. If ingestion of any of these items should occur, please note the amount ingested and contact your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at

(888) 426-4435 immediately.

### **Chocolate, Coffee, Caffeine**

These products all contain substances called methylxanthines, which are found in cacao seeds, the fruit of the plant used to make coffee and in the nuts of an extract used in some sodas. When ingested by pets, methylxanthines can cause vomiting and diarrhea, panting, excessive thirst and urination, hyperactivity, abnormal heart rhythm, tremors, seizures and even death. Note that darker chocolate is more dangerous than milk chocolate. White chocolate has the lowest level of methylxanthines, while baking chocolate contains the highest.



### **Alcohol**

Alcoholic beverages and food products containing alcohol can cause vomiting, diarrhea, decreased coordination, central nervous system depression, difficulty breathing, tremors, abnormal blood acidity, coma and even death.

### **Avocado**

The leaves, fruit, seeds and bark of avocados contain Persin, which can cause vomiting and diarrhea in dogs. Birds and rodents are especially sensitive to avocado poisoning, and can develop congestion, difficulty breathing and fluid accumulation around the heart. Some ingestions may even be fatal.

### **Macadamia Nuts**

Macadamia nuts are commonly used in many cookies and candies. However, they can cause problems for your canine companion. These nuts have caused weakness, depression, vomiting, tremors and hyperthermia in dogs. Signs usually appear within 12 hours of ingestion and last approximately 12 to 48 hours.

### **Grapes & Raisins**

Although the toxic substance within grapes and raisins is unknown, these fruits can cause kidney failure. In pets who already have certain health problems, signs may be more dramatic.

### **Yeast Dough**

Yeast dough can rise and cause gas to accumulate in your pet's digestive system. This can be painful and can cause the stomach or intestines to rupture. Because the risk diminishes after the dough is cooked and the yeast has fully risen, pets can have small bits of bread as treats. However, these treats should not constitute more than 5 percent to 10 percent of your pet's daily caloric intake.

### **Xylitol**

Xylitol is used as a sweetener in many products, including gum, candy, baked goods and toothpaste. It can cause insulin release in most species, which can lead to liver failure. The increase in insulin leads to hypoglycemia (lowered sugar levels). Initial signs of toxicosis include vomiting, lethargy and loss of coordination. Signs can progress to recumbancy and seizures. Elevated liver enzymes and liver failure can be seen within a few days.

### **Onions, Garlic, Chives**

These vegetables and herbs can cause gastrointestinal irritation and could lead to red blood cell damage. Although cats are more susceptible, dogs are also at risk if a large enough amount is consumed. Toxicity is normally diagnosed through history, clinical signs and microscopic confirmation of Heinz bodies. An occasional low dose, such as what might be found in pet foods or treats, likely will not cause a problem, but we recommend that you do NOT give your pets large quantities of these foods.

### **Milk**

Because pets do not possess significant amounts of lactase (the enzyme that breaks down lactose in milk), milk and other milk-based products cause them diarrhea or other digestive upset.



For more informational articles, please visit [www.aspc.org](http://www.aspc.org).

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