

Water hemlock kills Colo. Dog (KDVR-TV (Denver)) 7/1

A 3 year old Border Collie mix died in Colorado after chewing and eating a water hemlock plant. One of the most lethal plants in North America, it grows in very moist areas, such as ditches and lakes. Symptoms, if consumed, include drooling, muscle twitching, seizures and as in this case possibly death due to respiratory arrest.

Comment: While water hemlock isn't particularly appealing to dogs to eat, as we all know dogs will chew and eat things they shouldn't. Water Hemlock grows throughout North America and Europe. For those who venture into the outdoors with their dogs it would be a good idea to be able to identify this plant, as well as other poisonous ones, in order to avoid them as there is no known antidote. SEM

Ore. Veterinarians report more cases of marijuana ingestion (The Oregonian (Portland)) 7/7

Marijuana became legal in Oregon in July 2015 and since then, as in other states that have enacted similar laws, the incidence of marijuana poisoning has increased significantly. Pets can be exposed by both ingesting pot as well as by inhaling the smoke. Symptoms include glassy eyes, vomiting, urine leakage and excitability. Pet owners whose pets are experiencing symptoms and have been exposed to marijuana should tell the veterinarian so that prompt and correct treatment can be started. Treatment is symptomatic as no antidote is available. While most pets do survive, death can occur.

Comment: While this is a no brainer that the legalization of marijuana in many states will lead to pets being exposed to it, it is a good reminder to make sure that if marijuana toxicity is a possibility then the attending veterinarian should be informed. SEM

Dog allergic to people gets treatment, new owner (WRTV-TV (Indianapolis)) 7/9

Dogs can be allergic to anything just as people can, including people! One such dog, Adam, is allergic to human dander. To treat his condition, hyposensitization serum (allergy shots) have been customized for him. Adam will need to be treated for the rest of his life but he is doing well and has been adopted by one of the people who treated him.

Comment: So do we get rid of the kids/husband/wife because the dog is allergic?? SEM

Breakdown of cellular centrosome may explain mammalian heart cells' inability to proliferate (Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News) 8/7 (Business Standard (India)/Asian News International) 8/10

A study into the reasons that mammalian heart cells lose the ability to replicate shortly after birth is examining the role the centrosome (an organelle in the nucleus of the cell that is important in cell division) may play in this. In mammalian cardiac cells the centrosome breaks down into its two component parts shortly after birth effectively preventing replication. This breakdown does not occur in zebrafish and amphibians which may be the reason that their heart

muscles never lose the ability to reproduce. The possibility exists that if the centrosome breakdown in mammalian heart cells can be manipulated then possibly the regenerative abilities of the heart cells can be reawakened to help recovery from heart attacks and other heart conditions. And also turning on centrosome breakdown, such as in rapidly dividing cancer cells, may lead to new cancer treatments.

Comment: *Very interesting stuff going on at the cellular level!! SEM*

Veterinarian pushes for warning on products containing xylitol (FoodSafetyNews.com) 8/19

An Oregon veterinarian is heading efforts to spread the word that xylitol, an artificial sweetener, is a serious and potentially fatal, threat to dogs (but not to humans or other animals). An increasing number of foods, which now includes some peanut butters and sugar-less ice creams and yogurts, now contain the sweetener – and the list is growing. This trend highlights the importance of reading ingredient labels – of human foods – before sharing them with your dog. To aid the effort of getting the word out, Dr. Jason Nicholas has created two on-line petitions, one that will go to the FDA and the other will go to manufacturers. One company, Nuts”N More, has already agreed to add a “not for pets” warning on all their xylitol containing products.

Comment: *Xylitol is another extremely toxin for our canine companions and now it apparently may not be safe to give our canine friends a bone or Kong stuffed with peanut butter. So make sure that you read labels on human products from now on before you share anything with your dog. Note: Here is the link to the petitions: <http://www.preventivevet.com/xylitol-awareness-petitions>. SEM*

Craft brewery premieres dog-friendly beer at adoption event (The Indianapolis Star (tiered subscription model) 8/19

Flat 12 Bierwerks launched the first canine brew, “Flat 12 Paws”, at an adoption and supply drive for a local shelter. The non-alcoholic beer is made using meat bones, vegetables and brewer’s yeast which are then blended with wort to create the dog beer. The beer will be available on tap at Flat 12 Bierwerks

Comment: *Next time you and your canine friends are in the Indianapolis area (can we say the Indiana SH Specialty??) check it out and treat your dogs to a pint (well a bowl actually). SEM*

WARNING! Like to give your dog peanut butter as a treat – make sure to READ THE LABEL now!! Some brands are now adding xylitol – a deadly poison to dogs. Xylitol is showing up in more and more human products so read labels (see above Veterinary Tidbit article).

News! NEWS! NEWS! Fresh from the AKC-CHF Parent Club Health Conference – there is a new app to help you manage your epileptic dog. Designed by The Royal Veterinary College you can visit [http:// www.rvcpetepilepsytracker.co.uk](http://www.rvcpetepilepsytracker.co.uk) for more information or search for the “Pet Epilepsy Tracker” app to download.