



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

TURKISH TESTOSTERONE TRIAL

“Soccer officials in Turkey have found a way to cut down on fan violence at matches: stop letting men into the stadiums... This week in Istanbul, 41,000 women and children packed a stadium, waving team-colored flags and cheering wildly, without a single incident of the violence that has plagued so many Turkish soccer matches... The match had been scheduled to be played in an empty stadium as punishment for unruly fan behavior. Instead they let in only women and kids under 12... And now Turkish officials want to allocate more free tickets to ladies and children in future matches to continue to reduce fan violence.” (Robin Meade, CNN, September 12)

PETS AT RISK

Household poisons can sicken or kill your pets, and many common household foods and drugs can be toxic or poisonous

for your pets, too.

- Avocados contain a toxin known as persin, found in various parts of the avocado fruit and avocado trees (e.g., leaves, rinds, etc.), known mostly to cause vomiting and diarrhea. Birds and small pets seem most affected by the negative side effects of consuming avocado.
- Alcohol. Depending on how much alcohol your animal ingests, it can lead to vomiting, diarrhea, depression, difficulty breathing, coma, and possible death.
- Chocolate contains a compound called theobromine that is toxic to pets. If enough is ingested, your animal can suffer from vomiting, diarrhea, abnormal heart rhythms, tremors, seizures, and possible death. Cocoa mulch contains theobromine; ASPCA advises dog owners to avoid using this fertilizer around unsupervised dogs, and dogs with indiscriminate eating habits,

since it can be toxic if ingested. Chocolate is also toxic to cats and ferrets.

- Candy containing the artificial sweetener xylitol can be toxic to pets.
- Caffeine is generally highly toxic to pets, with negative effects on both the cardiac and nervous systems. Side effects can include vomiting, diarrhea, abnormal heart rhythms, tremors, seizures, and possible death.
- An unknown toxin in grapes and raisins can cause kidney failure and ultimately lead to death. Symptoms of this poisoning can include hyperactivity, vomiting, diarrhea, and irregular heartbeat.
- An unknown toxin in nuts can have negative effects on the nervous, digestive, and muscular systems of your pet. Symptoms can include muscle tremors, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, depression, inactivity, and stiffness. Particularly avoid macadamia nuts and walnuts.
- Onions, along with garlic and chives, are all part of the same species of plant—the allium species. Allium species plants contain sulfur compounds that can cause stomach irritation and possibly result in damage to red blood cells, causing anemia. This is referred to as allium poisoning.
- While some human medications

are prescribed for pets by veterinarians, others can be highly toxic and fatal.

- Acetaminophen, contained in Tylenol and other similar products, for example, can be fatal to cats. Always consult with your veterinarian before giving human medication to a pet.
- Xylitol is an artificial sweetener used in many products, including mouthwash, chewing gum, toothpaste, and various foods. Because it is toxic to pets, products containing xylitol should not be given to your dog or cat.
- All portions of the lily plant are poisonous to cats when ingested. Just a nibble of the leaf, petal, or stem can cause irreversible kidney failure despite extensive medical treatment.
- Other dangerous plants for animals: azalea and hydrangea flowers, marijuana plants, sago palms, mushrooms.
- Other foods that can be toxic to your pet: apple seeds, chives, fruit pits (especially apricot, peach, plum, nectarine, and cherry), garlic, moldy food, mustard seeds, potato leaves and stems, rhubarb leaves, salt, tea, tomato leaves and stems.
- Toxic household items: antifreeze/coolant, liquid potpourri, polyurethane glue, pennies, pine oil cleaners

- For poison-related emergencies, call Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435. (Reviewed by Amy I. Attas, VMD, for webvet.com)

BLOWOUT!

At Scott McKellar’s house, a bathroom remodel almost turned disastrous last week when a construction worker called out to Scott’s son, “Don’t turn on the water.” Unfortunately, the young lad did not hear the first word, and turned on the water, leading to a miniature tsunami. At last report, the McKellars were still mopping up.

SWAMI SEZ

“Time is what stops everything happening all at once.” (Andy Hamilton)

SITSEER

Facebook launches its new Timeline scrapbook format this week. In response, I am launching my new antisocial media called In Your Face Book.

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