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## FOOD HAZARDS OVER CHRISTMAS

### Chocolate, Turkey Bones, Ham and other yummys!!

Even if your dog looks at you with pleading eyes, resist the urge to throw holiday table scraps his way. Rich, fatty foods, like gravy or grease, can cause problems ranging from stomach upsets to pancreatitis resulting in pain, vomiting, and dehydration. Dogs with this serious condition often require hospitalization for treatment and on rare occasions it can be fatal. Ingested bones can splinter and cause an obstruction or lacerations of your dog's digestive system. Other foods that we find delicious can in fact be fatal to some animals.

Chocolate, which stimulates the nervous system and the heart, should be kept far away from four-legged friends. Although all chocolate should be avoided, dark chocolate poses a greater risk than sweeter varieties, such as milk chocolate. Problems from ingestion range from diarrhoea to seizures and death. Unsweetened baking chocolate and dark chocolate are the worst culprits, but all chocolate, fudge, and other candy should be placed out of your dog's reach.

Bones from fish, meat, or poultry can also cause problems if swallowed. Even small bones can splinter causing lacerations throughout the intestinal tract. So, no matter how big or how little they are, be sure to avoid all bones.

Abundant in many cookies and candies, certain nuts should not be given to pets. Almonds, non-mouldy walnuts and pistachios can cause an upset stomach or an obstruction of your dog's throat and/or intestinal tract.

Macadamia nuts and mouldy walnuts can be toxic, causing seizures or neurological signs. Lethargy, vomiting and loss of muscle control are among the effects of nut ingestion.

The artificial sweetener, xylitol that is present in some gums, breath mints, candy, and other human food can be very toxic to dogs.

Grapes, raisins and sultanas contain a toxin which can damage the kidneys.

Pets should never ingest alcoholic beverages because alcohol depresses the nervous system.

Alcohol may cause vomiting, disorientation, diarrhoea, lethargy, lack of coordination, difficulty breathing, tremors, coma and seizures.

**Helpful Hints:** Theobromine is the toxic compound found in chocolate. If your animal ingests any chocolate give us a ring and we can calculate the amount of Theobromine ingested and advise you on the course of action to take.

Remember when trimming the ham/chicken or turkey that fat trimmed from meat, both cooked and uncooked, has a high risk of causing pancreatitis.

Well-intentioned family and friends may share holiday foods with pets. To control excessive food intake by your pets and meet your guests' desires to feed the pets, dole out the treats your pets would normally receive and let your guests "treat" the pets.

If you want to get festive, mix some of your

pet's regular food with water to make "dough" and roll out and cut into festive shapes, then bake until crunchy.

Rubbish bins contain all kinds of hazards for your dog especially at Christmas time. Remember, dogs have an exceptional sense of smell – juices on plastic or aluminium foil left on countertops are very tempting. If ingested, plastic or foil wrap (cellophane candy wrappers or food wrap) can cause choking or intestinal obstruction.

Meat-soaked strings from rump roasts are also enticing. Ingestion can cause a surgical emergency called a 'linear string foreign body' in the intestines.

To be safe, put away food immediately and pet-proof your garbage. Feed your pet(s) before a party so they will not be so apt to beg or steal food. Clean up glasses after holiday parties. Dogs are often attracted by the sweet taste of drinks, especially eggnog.

Sources: Drs.Foster&Smith-EducationalStaff | [http://nbcrtx.org/articles/catlinks\\_holiday\\_safety.pdf](http://nbcrtx.org/articles/catlinks_holiday_safety.pdf) | <http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/ClientED/holiday.aspx> | Dr Leeann Dumars, ABVP | <http://petmedicalfresno.com/2012/12/16/holiday-hazard-tips-dr-leeann-dumars-abvp/> | <http://www.petinsurance.com/healthzone/pet-articles/pet-health/Top-5-Holiday-Dangers-to-Pets.aspx> | <http://www.vets-now.com/pet-owners/dog-care-advice/home-hazards-for-dogs/>



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**Merry Christmas**
  
  
**& Happy New Year**

*from all of us at Port Kennedy Veterinary Hospital*

Our Christmas & New Year Opening Hours					
Sunday	24/12/17	8am - 5pm	Friday	29/12/17	7am - 7pm
Monday	25/12/17	Closed	Saturday	30/12/17	8am - 5pm
Tuesday	26/12/17	9am - 5pm	Sunday	31/12/17	8am - 5pm
Wednesday	27/12/17	7am - 7pm	Monday	01/01/18	Closed
Thursday	28/12/17	7am - 7pm			

# CPV-2C CANINE PARVOVIRUS STRAIN AND VACCINATION – THE FACTS

**PARVOVIRUS – A highly infectious virus that even mentioning the name, rattles most pet owners. Is it any wonder that the recent news dominating the media mentioning a new strain of the disease is causing distress in the pet owner community?**

For the first time a new canine parvovirus strain (canine parvovirus 2c or CPV-2c) has been identified in Australia. We are here today to tell you to STOP PANICKING! Let us shed some much-needed light on this emerging situation.

## What is Canine parvovirus (CVP)?

Canine parvovirus is a highly contagious viral infection that primarily attacks rapidly dividing cells in dogs notably in the gastrointestinal tract. The growing nature of puppies is why unvaccinated young puppies are so highly susceptible. The virus is transmitted either by direct contact with an infected dog, or indirectly through faecal matter from an infected dog. The virus can survive in the ground for a number of years and be transferred on shoes and clothing.

## What is the new Canine parvovirus: (CPV-2c)?

This disease actually isn't new. Known as CPV-2c it is just another variant of the original canine parvovirus and is present today along with other strains. It has been active worldwide for a number of years but has only recently become apparent in Australia. CPV-2c can infect dogs of all ages and only differs from the original virus at one point of the parvovirus DNA strand. The disease is still highly infectious and contagious in dogs and requires the same precautions as the pre-existing virus. If your pet contracts the disease, early detection and intensive treatment is advised. This is no different to the current parvovirus, with symptoms and prognosis remaining the same.

## You said not to panic? I'M PANICKING!

Cool your jets. Present vaccines covering the original Canine parvovirus are multivalent and cover all versions of the disease including CPV-2c. Furthermore, CPV-2c can be detected and treated just like any other version of the virus, using the same tests and treatment plan. Just like

*Source: <http://www.animalemergencyservice.com.au/news/new-strain-of-canine-parvovirus-cpv-2c-in-australia/>*

the commonly known Parvovirus, vaccination is the best prevention. If you have an unvaccinated or overdue pet, they are most certainly at risk. If your pet has succumbed to the disease, early diagnosis and treatment enhances chances of survival. Pets infected with CPV-2c present clinically with the same symptoms as the original disease. Similarly, if left untreated, mortality rates are high. Unvaccinated pets are at the highest risk and with cases of parvovirus currently high; prevention is better than cure – and cheaper too!

- There are different variants of the virus in Australia including the 2C strain which was recently confirmed in dogs in South Australia and Victoria.
- Vaccination is highly effective against all strains of canine parvovirus including the 2C strain.
- The vaccines we use, are used globally in other countries where 2C has been identified for years and is protective there. The current vaccines have also been shown to be effective in challenge studies.
- Dogs with parvovirus are extremely ill. If your dog is wagging its tail and looking at you wondering what all the fuss is- it's probably not parvo!
- Immunity in pups won't develop until their maternal antibodies go. This can be up to 16 weeks which is why we recommend the final vaccination be when the pup is at least 16 weeks.
- When determining when it's safe to take your pup out it is a matter of weighing up the risks of getting parvo versus the benefits of socialisation. This varies according to individual circumstances and you should obtain advice from your vet regarding your circumstances.
- Non-responders to the vaccine can occur but it is extremely rare. Adult vaccinated dogs can be regarded as protected.

# DOGS DIE IN HOT CARS: NOT LONG IS TOO LONG

Dogs should never be left in a hot car. This isn't a new message, it's something we've been shouting from the rooftops for a number of years now, but it's staggering that almost half of people still think there are times when it's okay.

The message is getting through to many people but there are still too many instances where animals are being left in sweltering cars, caravans and conservatories and tragically some of them have deadly consequences.

## How fast does the temperature rise in a car?

The temperature inside a car can reach higher than 50°C after only five minutes when the temperature outside is 32.5°C (in tests conducted by the RACQ). During this test, the inside temperature reached over 75°C in less than two hours. The tests also showed that the colour of the car, the tint on the windows or even leaving the windows open did not reduce the cabin temperature by a significant amount, nor did parking it in the shade.

## How should you treat a pet with heat stress?

Dogs suffering from heat stress may pant, drool and become restless.

Over time, they become weak and the colour of their gums may change. They may also start to stagger and experience vomiting, diarrhoea or seizures.

Heat stroke is an emergency and your dog needs to be checked by a veterinarian. Emergency treatment is aimed at bringing the body temperature down at a steady rate; spray cool water onto your dog's body and use a fan. Don't use ice or ice-cold water as this may cool your dog down too rapidly.

So next time you think you might leave your pet in the car for just a short time, remember that "not long", is too long.

Causing animals to suffer in any way is a criminal offence. If your dog suffers as a result of being left in a car, you can be fined \$5,500 and can spend six months in jail. If your dog dies as a result of being left in a car, charges include \$22,500 in fines and two years in jail.

If you see a dog suffering in a hot car, call RSPCA WA immediately on 1300 CRUELTY (1300 278 3589).

*Source: <https://www.rspcansw.org.au/the-issues/dogs-die-in-hot-cars>*



# RESPONSIBLE VERSUS IRRESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

While Australia is overwhelmingly a nation of animal lovers, unfortunately there are still some in our community who treat animals cruelly. Acts of violence towards animals include neglect and even psychological harm. Human neglect almost cost Little Lily her life.

Irresponsible pet ownership comes in many forms and has many degrees of severity. When pet owners lack responsibility the effects can be disastrous for them, their animal/s and the general public.

Not providing proper and adequate veterinary care is detrimental to the pet's health and in the case of vaccinations/parasite control it can quickly become a matter of public safety. Vaccinations are not needed as frequently as was thought in yesteryear, but they are still needed.

Improper containment leads to many deaths, injuries and lawsuits each year. An animal roaming is a danger to themselves and others. If your pet is roaming there is a good chance that it will be picked up by a ranger.

In Australia approximately 140,000 unwanted dogs and cats are euthanized in animal welfare shelters and government pounds annually.

5-week old Lily was rescued by a kind member of the public from a situation where she would likely have perished before her 6th week in this world. When presented at a veterinary clinic, Lily had a painful and very badly damaged eye. Due to the swelling and infection that was present, it was decided to place Lily on a course of antibiotics and pain medication to settle the eye in order to make a better diagnosis possible without inflicting more undue pain.

Following a week of medication, a proper diet and lots of love and care, Lily's infected eye settled and the swelling went down.

A visit to an eye specialist confirmed that whilst now back on the road to health, Lily had unfortunately lost sight in her right eye. But, at least she was able to keep both of her eyes and found a family to love and take care of her.

Pets can be a great source of joy and companionship, but they are also a great responsibility and there are a number of things to be considered before acquiring a pet.

Choosing the right pet for you is fun, but takes time, planning and lots of research. You need to consider very carefully both your needs and the needs of any animal that comes into your life.

Puppies and kittens are very cute, but they grow up to become adult

dogs and cats and may lose some of their cuteness. Will you have enough time to care for your pet? Caring for a pet properly can be both costly and difficult. To be healthy, cats and dogs have to be fed the right food, not just leftovers; receive regular preventative healthcare, such as vaccinations, worming and other parasite control. When they are sick, they have to be taken to the veterinarian for treatment and given medications regularly after being taken home – and, above all, they need your love, attention and your company.



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### BUSINESS HOURS

7am until 7pm Monday – Friday  
8am until 5pm Saturday & Sunday  
9am until 5pm Public Holidays

### CONSULT HOURS

**AM:** 9am until 12pm Monday – Friday  
**PM:** 3pm until 6.15pm Monday – Friday  
9am until 4.30pm Saturday & Sunday  
10am until 4.30pm Public Holidays

