



CHOCOLATE TOXICITY

One of the most common toxicities in animals seen by veterinarians is chocolate toxicity. Chocolate contains a chemical called theobromine that is in the same chemical family as caffeine. Signs of theobromine poisoning can occur with as little as 1/4 oz. of baking chocolate ingested per pound of body weight. That is equal to 4 pieces of Sees' candy causing toxicity in a 16-lb. dog. Baking chocolate contains higher amounts of theobromine than other forms of chocolate; however, toxicities can and do occur with almost any form of chocolate or cocoa.

Signs of theobromine (chocolate) toxicity:

Vomiting and/or diarrhea.

Hyperactivity, increased urination, and rapid heart rate.

Muscle tremors, seizures, coma, and death.

The sooner veterinary treatment is instituted, the greater the chances of survival. Treatment here at *Windsor Animal Hospital* will be aimed at eliminating the chocolate from the GI tract through inducing vomiting, stomach lavage, enemas, and intestinal chocolate binders. Meanwhile we support your pet on intravenous fluids, and using drugs to treat heart arrhythmias, seizures and/or tremors. With proper treatment, chances for complete recovery are excellent.