

MCLEOD



VETERINARY HOSPITAL



Winter 2010

### Hospital Hours

Mon – Thurs	8 am – 6:30 pm
Friday	8 am – 6:00 pm
Saturday	9 am – 1:00 pm
Sunday	Closed

### Holiday Hours

Dec. 24	8 am – 1:00 pm
Dec. 25	Closed
Dec. 31	8 am – 1:00 pm
Jan. 1	Closed



McLeod Veterinary Hospital is now on Facebook! Search us out and join us in this exciting new form of communication!

## FYI

We recently received a reminder from The Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association of a by-law that states:

*The veterinarian-client-patient relation (VCPR) is the basis for interaction among veterinarians, their clients and their patients. This VCPR exists when your veterinarian has seen your animal at least once in the past 12 months and is aware of the keeping and care of your animal by examination. Dispensing or prescribing a prescription product requires the existence of a VCPR.*

If your pet is taking medication long-term, please be advised that the veterinarian will need to examine your pet on an annual basis to continue refilling all prescription medications. Please call our office if you have any questions or concerns regarding this information.

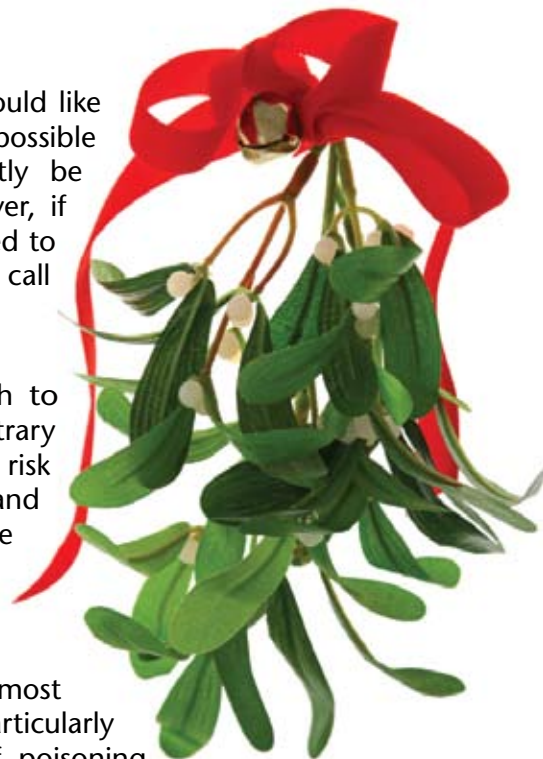
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## Holiday Hazards

With the holiday season upon us, we would like to take a moment to inform you about the possible hazards that your pets may inadvertently be exposed to. Prevention is the key! However, if you suspect that your pet has been exposed to a toxin or is showing any symptoms please call the clinic promptly.

### Poinsettias, Holly, Mistletoe

You may decide to add a festive touch to your home with these three plants. Contrary to popular belief, poinsettias pose a low risk of toxicity when ingested, while Holly and Mistletoe are poisonous and can cause gastrointestinal upset. Keep these plants out of reach of your pets.



### Chocolate, Grapes, Nuts, Onions

As far as toxins go, chocolate is one of the most common inquiries received by our clinic particularly at this time of the year. The severity of poisoning depends primarily on the amount ingested but also the type of chocolate. The amount of theobromine in milk chocolate versus dark chocolate differs considerably. Grapes (which include raisins), some nuts (particularly macadamias), onions and garlic can also be toxic to your dog or cat if eaten. If your pet may have consumed any of these toxins, please call our clinic.

### Foreign Bodies

With Christmas comes lots of toys, tinsel and ribbons for your pets to chew and swallow. Tinsel is especially dangerous for cats. If your pet is vomiting and/or not wanting to eat please call to make an appointment with one of our doctors.

### Electrical Burns

Puppies, kittens and bunnies love to explore their environments with their mouth. Be sure that electrical cords for your holiday lights are not accessible for chewing. Burns in the mouth or difficulty breathing may be the only symptoms.

### Antifreeze

Antifreeze is a very hazardous toxin that can affect all pets. Due to the sweet taste, antifreeze is very enticing to animals, especially dogs and cats. When antifreeze is consumed it will permanently damage the kidneys in as quick as an hour after ingestion. If you suspect your pet has consumed antifreeze, bring them to the clinic immediately.

## Fun Facts

63% of dog owners and 58% of cat owners said they give their pets gifts at Christmas.



## Pet of the Month

### Meet Theodore

Theodore is a four month Shih Tzu / Bichon Frisé / Pomeranian cross lovingly owned by Stephanie and Andrew.

McLeod Veterinary  
Hospital Staff Members

### Veterinarians

Dr. Robert Newfield  
Dr. Alison Bowles  
Dr. Jason Kellsey  
Dr. Angela Coleman-Wiebe

### Animal Health Technologists

Barbe Parke  
Cindy Sontag  
Kim Nakamura  
Amy Weir  
Joëlle Tétréault

### Receptionists

Martina Korne  
Brittini Jensen  
Kelly Zelinsky  
Carissa Shaw  
Ashley Celhar

### Veterinary Assistants

Rees Buck  
Laura Tschetter

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## The Right Kind of Love

We all love to spoil our pets, especially during the holidays. Most of the time, our love is shown to our pets through food and treats. We want to remind you to be cautious of the types and amounts of table food that are given to your pet. Fatty foods can lead to inflammation of the pancreas, called pancreatitis. Pancreatitis can be painful and life-threatening.

The classic signs in dogs are appetite loss, vomiting, diarrhea, painful abdomen, and fever. We can diagnose your dog after doing a physical exam with a simple blood test that we can do right here in the hospital.

After the diagnosis has been made your pet will require hospitalization with intravenous fluids and medications to control vomiting and pain. The dogs are not given anything by mouth to allow the pancreas to rest and the inflammation to resolve. When your pet is feeling better we will begin to offer small amounts of a low fat diet. The length of the hospital stay will depend on the severity of the symptoms. Some dogs only require 48 hours while others remain on intravenous fluids for longer.

If your dog is exhibiting any of the above symptoms after consuming some holiday "treats" please call our office for an examination with a veterinarian at your earliest convenience.



## Diabetes is a Rising Concern

Diabetes mellitus is a common disease in cats and dogs. Diabetes strikes 1 in 400 cats, though recent veterinary studies note that it is becoming more common lately.

Diabetes is caused by insufficient production of insulin by the pancreas, or the inability of the body's cells to utilize insulin. Long-term use of some medications including steroids can cause diabetes. Some dogs can be predisposed to developing diabetes such as German Shepherds, Schnauzers, Beagles, Poodles, Golden Retrievers and Keeshonds. As well, dogs and cats who are overweight are more at risk of developing the disease. It has also been found that feeding a high-carbohydrate dry food to cats can contribute to developing the disease.

Cats will generally show a gradual onset over a few weeks, and it may escape notice for a while. The condition is unusual in cats less than seven years old. The first obvious symptoms are a sudden weight loss (occasional gain), accompanied by excessive drinking and urination. Appetite is suddenly either ravenous or absent. In cats the back legs may become weak and the gait may become stilted or wobbly.

Dogs will also develop the condition gradually; some of the symptoms you may notice in your dog can include drinking and urinating more, increased appetite, weight loss and decreased energy levels. Cataract formation is also common in dogs with Diabetes mellitus. Generally the disease occurs in middle aged dogs but can also occur earlier in Golden Retrievers and Keeshonds.

Diabetes is definitely treatable in both dogs and cats. In cats, prompt effective treatment can even lead to diabetic remission, in which the cat no longer needs to receive insulin injections. Your veterinarian would discuss all your treatment options should your pet be diagnosed with diabetes. Untreated the condition leads to increasing weakness, and eventually malnutrition, ketoacidosis and/or dehydration, and death.

If your pet is exhibiting any symptoms discussed above please make an appointment with one of our doctors for an examination.