

Welcome to Main Street Animal Hospital's seasonal newsletter, your quarterly source for pet health news, updates from around the hospital, savings opportunities, and staff profiles.



Featured Article: Seasonal Dietary Toxins

With the days getting shorter, many of us begin to turn our attention to the holiday season. To ensure safe and happy celebrations, we should also turn our attention to common "people foods" that may find their way into our pets' temptations.

October is the most chocolatey month of the year, but **chocolate**, as well as **coffee** and **caffeinated products**, contain compounds called methylxanthines. Pets that ingest methylxanthines can experience diarrhea, vomiting, and abnormal heart rate, along with more serious conditions. Baking and dark chocolates contain the most methylxanthines, whereas white chocolate contains the least.

November frequently brings with it lots of home cooking. Unfortunately, foods like **onions**, **chives**, and **garlic** can lead to gastrointestinal irritation and anemia, while **raisins** and **grapes** can cause kidney failure. Eating **macadamia nuts** may result in weakness, vomiting, and tremors. Let's also not forget that the **alcohol** in those holiday libations is toxic to pets too, causing vomiting, diarrhea, and changes in blood pH.

Finally, no list would be complete without **xylitol**, a sweetener in many gums, candies, toothpastes, and even some peanut butter. Xylitol can lead to low blood sugar, seizures, and liver failure.

For more information on common pet poisons including non-food items, visit <http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com>. If you suspect your pet has ingested any toxins, be sure to call us immediately.



<http://cdn.grid.fotosearch.com/CSP/CSP992/k8139509.jpg>



Did You Know?

We have a laser therapy machine at Main Street! Laser technology has been scientifically proven to be effective for acute conditions, such as wounds, infections, soft tissue injuries, and post-surgical recovery. Laser treatment can also help relieve pain associated with arthritis.

Our veterinary technicians are specially trained by *Companion Animal Health* to use the device. Ask one of our veterinarians if your pet might benefit from a laser treatment.

Staff Profile



Marie Snyder, Receptionist

Call or visit our hospital in the evening on Tuesdays through Thursdays (and some Saturday mornings), and you just might meet Marie. She has been working for Main Street Animal Hospital since its inception and has over 25 years of experience helping animals.

Together with her husband of 53 years, Marie has two children, four grandchildren, and three "fur-children:" a tabby, a foxhound, and a mixed breed dog.