



# Hollywood Insider 2016

October 2016  
Volume 2016, Issue 10

## Fall Toxins

It's finally Fall! This means cooler weather, football season, Halloween and Thanksgiving. What could be better?

With the greatness of Fall upon us, comes the treats that we love to enjoy this time of year. Some of these sweets and things can be quite harmful to our pets. We wanted to provide you with a list of things to keep away from your pets this season, and in seasons to come.

### #1 – Candy (particularly chocolate)

The darker the chocolate, the more harmful it is to your pet. Chocolate contains caffeine and a substance called theobromine that are both very harmful to pets, and could be deadly at certain amounts. You should call your veterinarian right away if your dog has ingested chocolate, and get your pet to the veterinary clinic as quickly as possible.

### #2 – Table Scraps

Many of our holiday favorites – turkey, ham, dressing, and casseroles contain large amounts of salt and fat, which can easily upset a dog's digestive system, causing anything from an upset tummy to pancreatitis. Pancreatitis can be potentially deadly if not treated in a timely manner.

### #3 – Alcoholic Beverages

For some reason, dogs (and cats!) are attracted to alcohol. However, it can have the same effects on them, but it doesn't take nearly the quantity that it takes for a human. Just a small amount of alcohol can cause liver damage in pets. So keep those drinks elevated, and keep an eye on the cat!

### #4 – Desserts

Excessive sugar intake can cause a spike in an animal's blood sugar, which can cause several

health issues and can potentially lead to diabetes if the body cannot adjust and regulate the insulin it requires.

### #5 – Poinsettias and Fall Lilies

These plants can be toxic, causing digestive upset and organ damage. If you think your pet has ingested one of these poisonous plants, call your veterinarian right away and get your pet to the nearest veterinary clinic.

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## The "Bark" Around Town

Upcoming events in October:

- Hope For Paws:**  
October 6 – Meeting @ Waskom, Brown & Associates 5:30-6:30
- October 8 – Adoption Event @ PetSmart on Youree Drive in Shreveport 10:00 – 3:00
- October 19 – Farm to Table Dinner @ Cherokee Plantation 6:30-9:30 Tickets: \$85
- Natchitoches Humane Society:**  
October 8 – Adoption Day @ Tractor Supply in Natchitoches 9:00 – 1:00
- October 31<sup>st</sup> – Children's Haunted House on Front Street 5:00-7:00
- Cane's Scary Night Out and Costume Contest – details coming soon!

## Ear Infections

Have you ever smelled your dog's ears? A foul odor is one of the most common signs that pet owners notice before bringing their pet in for an exam. If you've experienced this before, you know the smell!

Other signs you may notice could be excessive head shaking, dark or yellow-colored waxy buildup inside the ears, and/or scratching at the ears and whining as in pain.

Ear infections are caused by an overgrowth of either bacteria or fungus. Many of these organisms are part of the dog's "normal flora," meaning it is found in a normal ear but at a low number. When conditions are right, these organisms will thrive and overpopulate. The ear is perfect for this, as it provides a warm, dark, moist environment that many of these organisms love. Dogs with floppy or large ears are more prone to ear infections because of this.

Dogs with erect ears are less prone, but always still at risk of an ear infection.

Our veterinarians test for an ear infection by performing an ear cytology. We collect swab samples of the "gunk" in the ears and stain it with a special stain that helps us to see bacteria and yeast more clearly under the microscope.

Once we know what is causing the ear infection, our veterinarians will prescribe an ear medication that will treat your dog's specific infection. It is very important that you follow the label instructions and complete the treatment as prescribed. If not, the infection could come right back, except this time it could be resistant to the previously prescribed medication. We do not want this to happen! Most ear infections are treated and resolve quickly. Some ear

infections are more tricky and may require additional medications. The key to ear infections is PREVENTION. We recommend using an ear flush that dries the ear canal, such as Hexadene flush or Malacetic Otic flush. These can both be purchased over the counter here at PetStar. We recommend using one of these cleaners after bathing your dog, or to clean the ears out if your dog goes swimming in the lake. We also recommend cleaning the ears out once a week, regardless of a bath or swimming, especially if your dog is prone to ear infections.

If you think your dog has an ear infection, we highly recommend bringing him in for an exam so that we can start treating the infection. Ear infections are painful and miserable, and we don't want our babies to suffer!



Yeast (green circle) and cocci bacteria (red circle) on an ear cytology, viewed through the microscope

## Why Bones Are Bad For Dogs!

You've seen them in the store – those big, meaty-looking bones that look like something a caveman used to carry around. You think, "my dog would love that!" But, think again! Your dog probably would enjoy the flavor while it lasts, but then you get stuck with the aftermath.

These bones contain high levels of sodium and are often flavored with things that do not agree with your dog's digestive system. Not to mention, if pieces of bone are swallowed, this could potentially cause an obstruction or a tear in the stomach or intestines (meaning surgery!). So, an \$8 treat could turn into an \$800 surgery or treatment for your dog!

Also, we know it is so tempting to give your dog the leftovers after you enjoy a pork chop,

t-bone steak, or chicken legs. But beware the potential hazards these things can produce for our pets. Chicken bones are the most hazardous, as these bones are hollow. They can break into slivers while being chewed – imagine swallowing a hundred sewing needles!! They can perforate the digestive system. Pieces of chicken bones have even been known to get caught in the throat!

Also, a problem with giving dogs leftover bones from our empty plates is the spices and sauces that we use to flavor our food. BBQ sauce is high in sugar, and many spices are high in sodium. These can cause a very bad digestive upset, leading to vomiting and diarrhea, or pancreatitis. It can also cause changes in your dog's blood work.

Next time you enjoy a nice prime rib and your dog is giving you those great big "puppy eyes," just say NO!

A great alternative to giving your dog a bone is to give him an Enzadent chew! These chews are made out of compressed rawhides and are coated with an enzyme that helps to clean the teeth while your dog enjoys a tasty treat. The way these chews are made helps them break down in the digestive system, so they will not cause a blockage if a piece is swallowed whole. One chew a day is a satisfying treat for your dog, and you get the double pleasure of your dog having a cleaner mouth and fresher breath! These can be purchased in our front lobby at PetStar, or from our online order site through our website.



Enzadent chews are a great and tasty alternative to bones!

## Ask the Doctor!

Q: Why does my Pomeranian have this ongoing deep hacking cough?

A: There are lots of causes of coughing so she would need to be evaluated by a veterinarian for definitive diagnosis. The first thing to rule out is heartworm disease which is accomplished by a simple blood test. Fecal exams are done to rule out parasite causes. If she is around any other dogs, she could potentially have an infectious cause of the cough such as kennel cough, influenza, or pneumonia caused by bacterial or fungal infections. Most dogs feel ill with such diseases. Dogs that are not feeling badly but have these chronic coughs can be due to airway diseases, such as collapsing tracheas or bronchitis. Heart related problems must be ruled out. Radiographs are very helpful in determining the underlying cause of the chronic cough.

Pomeranians and many other small breed dogs are notorious for developing collapsing tracheas. The problem is caused by weakening of the cartilaginous rings that help hold the trachea, or windpipe, open. This leads to a narrowing of the airway. The most common place for it to occur is where the trachea goes into the chest but can occur anywhere along the trachea including inside the chest. The severity of the collapse varies between animals. Those with severe tracheal collapse can develop distress due to cyanosis, seen as a bluish tinge tongue and gums due to decreased oxygenation of the blood.

Collapsing trachea is an incurable disease. Treatment is aimed at stopping the cough with cough suppressants and possibly anti-inflammatory agents. Bronchodilators may help open the smaller airways to help improve oxygenation. Harnesses instead of collars should be used on affected dogs to minimize pressure placed on the trachea. Reducing periods of excitement and keeping dogs in ideal body condition helps minimize coughing episodes. Severely affected dogs may have to be sedated and placed on supplemental oxygen such as in oxygen cages. Referral surgeons can place stents to help hold the airway open but there are many complications associated with these procedures, so they are reserved for patients that cannot be managed with other medical treatment.

~Dr. Doug Landry

## Sweetie and the Case of the Uroliths

Sweetie, a 12-year-old spayed Dachshund, presented on July 27<sup>th</sup> to Petstar Animal Care of Natchitoches for chronic vomiting, weight loss, and possibly blood in her urine. Dr. Dufrene was concerned with the amount of pain Sweetie was in on palpation of her abdomen. A complete blood count showed severely elevated white blood cell levels. A urinalysis revealed a large amount of red blood cells, white blood cells, and a moderate amount of protein in urine. However, no crystals were seen. She was diagnosed with a urinary tract infection. Radiographs were the next step of diagnostics to rule out possible bladder stones. Sweetie's owner elected to see if pain medicine and antibiotics would resolve Sweetie's issue and make her feel better before proceeding with radiographs.

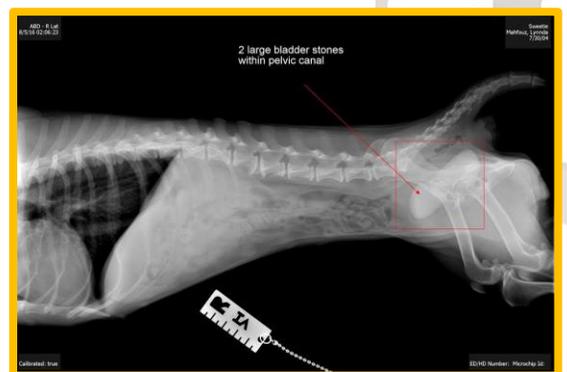
Sweetie returned 9 days later due to urinary incontinence. A repeat urinalysis revealed Sweetie still had a urinary tract infection. Since she had not improved, Dr. Landry proceeded with radiographs of Sweetie's abdomen which revealed two large bladder stones. Her bladder was pushed into her pelvic canal due to the chronic straining

and was the reason the stones were unable to be palpated within her abdomen. Sweetie's antibiotics were continued as she was scheduled for surgery as soon as possible.

Blood work was repeated prior to surgery and revealed an even higher white blood cell count (42,000) than her initial visit in July. There was concern that another underlying disease could be involved as such severe leukocytosis is not normally seen with bladder stones and urinary tract infections. Dr. Landry performed a cystotomy to remove the stones from her bladder. It involves making an incision through the lower midline of her abdomen. The bladder was retracted from her pelvic canal and exteriorized. An incision into her bladder allowed for removal of the two large stones. The stones were so large that they had stretched out her urethral sphincter and there was concern that Sweetie could have chronic urinary incontinence issues. Her bladder was closed in two layers with absorbable suture material, and her abdominal incision was closed in three layers. Sweetie was monitored very closely and vitals remained stable through the entire procedure. Recovery over the next few days revealed the highly suspected

continuation of her urinary incontinence. Dr. Landry prescribed a medication called Proin to try to cause contraction of Sweetie's urethral sphincter and also continued her on antibiotics.

Sweetie returned two weeks later for a recheck after surgery. Her bloodwork revealed that her white blood cell count had completely returned to normal. Sweetie was no longer vomiting and was no longer having problems with urinary incontinence. Sweetie was weaned off of Proin and has returned full force to being a happy dog!



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## Coming Next Month

**Pancreatitis**

**Bordetella (kennel cough)**

**Reptile Care**

**Meet the Manchester Terrier**

At PetStar, our primary focus is to provide you with the most advanced and compassionate veterinary care. Our dedicated veterinary team members cater to your pet's needs in a new, state-of-the-art facility. We have two staff veterinarians supported by a team of well-trained and caring assistants and administrative staff. PetStar offers a unique combination of general veterinary care and boarding, as well as advanced procedures in small animal medicine, surgery and dentistry.

The PetStar Newsletter is dedicated to each of our friends that we have lost along the way. It has been a pleasant journey, and you will always be a part of the PetStar family. You will remain forever in our hearts.

## Hope for Paws Pet of the Month!

### "Susie"

Susie is an Aussie/Shepherd mix approximately 1 ½ years old. She is great with children and other dogs. Susie is spayed, up to date on her shots, and would make a wonderful addition to any family. A fenced yard and vet reference are required for her adoption along with a \$65.00 adoption fee. If interested please email [natchitocheshopeforpaws@yahoo.com](mailto:natchitocheshopeforpaws@yahoo.com).

Like Hope for Paws on Facebook  
<http://www.facebook.com/natchitocheshopeforpaws>



## Meet the Bloodhound!

The Bloodhound originated in Belgium. They were originally used to track deer and other large game. Over the years, they have also been used to help track criminals and locate missing people.

The Bloodhound is a good family dog, with a docile nature. They are known for their long ears, and droopy skin all over their bodies. They have droopy, sad looking eyes, but have a very happy temperament.

Bloodhounds require daily activity to keep them from boredom. They are known to roam if left alone outside

for long periods. They do like to dig, if left alone (tendency to escape). They like to have a purpose, and are good watch dogs for the home.



Photo courtesy of ePet Health

Bloodhounds do not require much grooming, just regular baths. Since their ears hang so long, they are prone to ear infections. Keeping the

ears and wrinkles of skin clean are vital.

### Breed Characteristics:

Life expectancy: 10-12 yrs  
Weight: 80-110 lbs  
Height: 23-27 inches  
Class: companion, tracking  
Colors: red, liver/tan, black/tan  
Other Names: St. Hubert Hound, Chien St. Hubert