

Care with Rodent Bait

On July 1st, the California EPA will ban long-acting anti-coagulants (blood thinners) found in mouse and rat poison due to secondary poisoning of wildlife. Though we applaud their decision to protect our wild critters, we are concerned that it may be replaced by even more dangerous neurotoxins. You see, vitamin K1 is the readily available antidote for the anti-coagulants but neurotoxins are much harder or impossible to treat.

It sounds, at this point, that d-Con (the major maker of rat baits) will make their poisons using a short-acting anti-coagulant, which can still be treated with vitamin K1. Let's hope so.

The safest for our pets would be to use non-toxic forms of rodent control like traps and eliminating their food supply. If using poison, place it in a safety box or put it in an area IMPOSSIBLE for your pet to reach. Be sure to read the active ingredients in fine print. If you suspect your pet has ingested a rat or mouse poison, get IMMEDIATE veterinary care.

Symptoms are often delayed but timing of treatment is critical. Be sure to bring the box so we can verify the toxic ingredient.

Chronic Pain and Our Pets (Part 2)

In our last newsletter, we discussed chronic pain in our pets and multi-modal approaches to pain relief. For various reasons, non-pharmaceutical approaches to pain may be used in addition to medications or sometimes used alone to improve overall comfort levels in our pets. Below are some strategies available to us.

- Weight loss for overweight pets with arthritis or other issues can dramatically decrease pain and improve mobility. We do have diets that are effective and specifically designed to promote fat loss in a patient.
- Supplements added to food like Omega 3 fatty acids help to reduce the pain from various sources. An injection called

Adequan provides benefits by promoting joint health and reducing pain in arthritic patients.

- Laser light therapy can be used to reduce inflammation and pain in many conditions. Laser is non-painful and easily done in the office.
- Extra-corporal shock wave therapy (ESW) utilizes focused sound waves to provide lasting pain relief in some conditions. Generally, the pet is sedated for this procedure as the sound itself can disturb the patient and administration is mildly painful to the awake pet.
- Physical therapy, acupuncture, and chiropractic manipulation in experienced hands can provide pain relief in certain conditions.

Quality of life is our ultimate goal for your pet. Many pets are living in chronic pain and yet show only mild symptoms. Joint pain from arthritis, dental pain from broken or infected teeth, and back pain are all examples of common sources of ongoing pain. Since chronic pain can come on gradually, sometimes they just "slow down" and act old before their time. Frequently the amount of pain they are dealing with is not apparent until the source is identified and eliminated or treated.

Please feel free to discuss your pet's comfort with us at any time. We would be happy to tailor a pain management program best suited for your individual pet and unique condition.



Happy "tales" from your friends at Memorial Beach Vet Hospital