



# WHATCOM ROAD VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Issue Date

APR. 2009

### Hospital Hours:

Mon. to Fri. 8am—6pm  
Sat. 9am-2pm

Check out our website at  
[www.whatcomvet.com](http://www.whatcomvet.com)

#102-2100 Whatcom Road  
Abbotsford, V3G 2K8  
Ph# (604)850-0960



### *Spring is Here! Let's Garden! But Watch Those Toxic Plants!*

Ah, yes. The sun is shining. There is the promise of warmth and the richness of renewal and growth. So many of us head to the garden shop for both indoor and outdoor plants. But do we stop to think about the possible ramifications of our choices?

First of all, know your pet. Is your pet a chewer? Will they explore with their mouths? Can you keep potentially toxic plants out of reach?

Plant toxicities can range from simple gastrointestinal irritants to kidney destroying chemicals. They can cause respiratory depression, or central nervous system signs (seizure and coma). They can make your pet uncomfortable, or they can kill them.

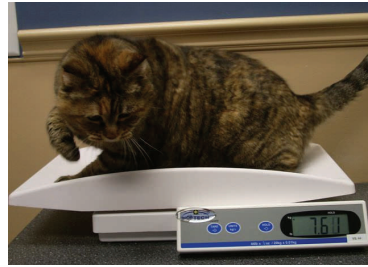
There are toxic plants in all categories: Perennials (all the lilies, Larkspur, Daphne, Delphinium, Foxglove, Black eyed Susans, Cornflower); Annuals (Geraniums, Nicotiana, Snap Dragons); Ferns and Ivy's; Shrubs (Hydrangea, Mock Orange, Hibiscus, Holly, Honeysuckle); Trees (Cherry and Apricot seeds, Japanese Yew); mushrooms; ornamental grasses. And of course, our spring time favourites: daffodils and narcissus. Your garden shop can help you choose non-toxic plants if you think your pet is likely to sample your selections.

Our favourite website for checking plants is [www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control](http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control).

It lists over 300 different toxic plants. Many of which have pictures. You can search plants by common names or scientific names. And if your pet is ill, you can search by clinical signs.



### *Munchkin Joins Kitty Boot Camp! April is Weight Loss Month*



### *Get Fit and Ready for Summer!*

Meet Munchkin, our clinic cat. We love her dearly. She came to us for placement into another home but we all fell in love with her. But beware.

She is a smart cat and a bit intolerant!

It has been difficult to find an appropriate food for Munchkin because she is prone to intestinal upset & she was already overweight when she came to us.

She usually finds some important papers, or Dr. Borgmann's purse when she has the urge to vomit. (Munchkin is trying to train Dr. Borgmann not to leave her things on the floor of the office!)

You wouldn't know it by looking at her that food can be such an issue. But remember we said she was smart? She can trick us into feeding her several times a day. Her food bowl is empty and she acts as if she's starving. We simply assume, the previous person was too busy helping clients to get a chance to feed her and so she has gained a fair bit of weight. She weighs 7.61kg or 16.74lbs.

Our biggest challenge will be finding an exercise program for her. She just looks at us as if we're crazy!

How do you control a pet's weight? The basics are the same as with humans. The right food (either a highly digestible, higher protein diet, or a higher fibre diet), portion control, and exercise.

Follow Munchkin's progress on our website at [www.whatcomvet.com](http://www.whatcomvet.com). You can also check our website for previous articles published in the Abbotsford Post on how to condition your pet.



### *A Commitment to Continuing Education*

Dr. Borgmann will be attending a week long conference dedicated to emergency medicine in small animal practice.

Dr. Borgmann & Dr. Macquisten, Natalie, Tabitha and Jenny have just completed a seminar on nutrition for kidney issues.

Drs. Borgmann & Foell will be attending a seminar on skin issues in April.

**Reminder: Save Trees! Send us your email address for reminders and newsletters.**

*You may opt out at any time and we will not give away or sell your address.*