

CHOCOLATE TOXICITY DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS



Your pet has been discharged from our hospital following treatment for chocolate ingestion. Below is a summary of the care provided and instructions for monitoring at home.

Reason for Presentation

Your pet was brought to the clinic after ingesting chocolate. Chocolate is **toxic to dogs** as it contains substances such as **caffeine and theobromine** (methylxanthines), which dogs cannot metabolise effectively. Depending on the dose, signs of chocolate toxicity can include:

- Vomiting
- Restlessness or hyperactivity
- Tremors or seizures
- Rapid heart rate or arrhythmias
- Excessive salivation or panting
- In rare cases, liver or kidney damage

Summary of Treatment

- **Induced vomiting** was performed to remove chocolate from the stomach. Chocolate and food were seen in the vomitus.
- **Activated charcoal** was administered with a small meal to help absorb any remaining toxins in the gut. This may cause your pet's stool to appear **black** for the next **1-3 days**—this is normal and not a cause for concern.
- Your pet may be a little **sleepy or wobbly** for a few hours due to the medications used.

Ongoing Care at Home

Medications

If medications were dispensed, please read all labels carefully and administer exactly as instructed. If you have any trouble giving medication, please contact the clinic for guidance.

Diet

Feed your pet their **normal diet**, unless otherwise directed.

Exercise

Exercise can resume as normal after **24 hours**, provided your pet is eating, drinking, and behaving normally.

When to Contact Us

Please monitor your pet closely over the next **12–24 hours**. Contact the clinic immediately if you notice any of the following:



- Hyperactivity, restlessness, or agitation
- Vomiting that continues or worsens
- Racing or irregular heartbeat
- Excessive panting or drooling
- Tremors, seizures, or collapse
- Profuse or persistent diarrhoea

In some cases, dogs may develop **pancreatitis** (inflammation of the pancreas) several days after eating chocolate, especially if the chocolate was high in fat. Watch for:

- Loss of appetite
- Lethargy
- Vomiting or abdominal pain

If any of these signs occur, please arrange a follow-up appointment with us as soon as possible.

Follow-Up

If your pet seems bright, comfortable, and is eating and drinking normally, a revisit may not be necessary. However, always reach out if you are unsure or have concerns—we are happy to help.

Thank you for entrusting us with your pet's care. Please don't hesitate to call the clinic if you have any questions or need support during your pet's recovery!