Macadamia Nut Toxicity in Dogs and Cats

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Toxin
Unknown

Source
Macadamia Nuts

General Information
Macadamia nuts are the fruit of the trees of *Macadamia integrifolia* and *Macadamia tetraphylla*. These trees are indigenous to Madagascar and Australia. They were introduced into Hawaii and California about 100 years ago. Symptoms usually start within 3-12 hours of ingesting the nuts, and tend to resolve over 24 hours.

Toxic Dose
10 grams per pound of body weight.

Signs
Lethargy, vomiting, and hyperthermia are initial symptoms with progression to ataxia or hind-limb paresis. Also seen are tremors, abdominal pain, lameness, joint stiffness, and pale mucous membranes.

Immediate Action
Induce vomiting if ingestion was within the past hour. Seek veterinary attention.

Veterinary Care
General treatment: The induction of vomiting may be continued, gastric lavage is performed, and activated charcoal administered, especially if the macadamia nuts were covered with chocolate. If large amounts were eaten, enemas may also be recommended.

Supportive treatment:In severe cases, IV fluids are administered to prevent dehydration. The animal will be monitored and treated for hyperthermia, and the pet will be protected from injury during the ataxia/paresis.

Specific treatment: Unavailable.

Prognosis
Good.

Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children and pets.

If you think your pet has been poisoned...
Contact your veterinarian or one of the Animal Poison Hotlines (listed below) if you think your pet may have accidentally received or been given an overdose of the medication.
**ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center
1-888-4ANI-HELP (1-888-426-4435). $65.00 per case, billed to caller's credit card.
Follow-up calls can be made for no additional charge by dialing 888-299-2973.
There is no charge when the call involves a product covered by the Animal Product Safety Service.
**Pet Poison Helpline - 24-hour service available throughout North America for pet owners and veterinary professionals who require assistance with treating a potentially poisoned pet.
1-800-213-6680 ($35.00 per incident). Staffed 24-hours a day.

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