

Antifreeze poisoning

by Jeff Quinn, DVM



Regrettably, usually about this time of year cases of antifreeze poisoning are more common. Ethylene Glycol is found in most commercial antifreeze preparations. Unfortunately, Ethylene Glycol tastes sweet, and is therefore a common toxicity seen in pets. The minimal lethal dose for a 10-lb. dog is two-thirds ounce. For a cat it is one-fifth ounce.

Symptoms of toxicity can begin 30 minutes to 12 hours post ingestion and include early-on excessive thirst and urination, progressing to depression, incoordination, paralysis, collapse, seizures, coma and death.

Diagnosis can be tricky and treatment, unless started early and very aggressive, is usually not successful. Pets that survive can be left with compromised kidney function.

Prevention includes:

- 1) Cleaning up antifreeze spills immediately
- 2) Checking your vehicle regularly for leaks
- 3) Storing antifreeze in clearly marked sealed containers inaccessible to pets
- 4) Never allowing pets to have access when you are draining radiator fluid from your car
- 5) Products containing Propylene Glycol (not Ethylene Glycol)

are less toxic and should be used when possible.

If you suspect your pet has ingested antifreeze, contact your veterinarian or the Animal Poison Control Center at 1-888-426-4435 immediately.

Jeff Quinn, DVM, graduated from Texas A&M in 1972 and has been a Veterinarian in Canyon Lake for 31 years. For more information, Dr. Quinn may be reached at 964-3696.

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Would you like free search engine traffic?

by Cindy Wharton

If you are reading this article, you probably already have a site and you are not getting enough traffic that you're supposed to be getting. You can get free search engine traffic by utilizing the following methods.

1. Link exchange with similar sites

Link exchange with similar sites is a great way to increase traffic to your site because both sites get benefited. The more you exchange links with different sites, the more traffic you'll get. One thing you should remember is to always exchange links with compatible sites not competitor sites. To check your link popularity, visit this free link popularity site: <http://www.marketleap.com/publinkpop/>

2. Write articles and submit to article directories

There are literally hundreds of article directories out there. Simply sign up as an author; it's free, and then begin submitting articles to them. This is a sure and proven method for targeted traffic. Writing articles and submitting to article directories can give massive exposure to your site. Not only your site's page rank and search engine ranking will increase, you will also become as an expert in your field.

3. Participate in online communities and forums

Forums and online communities can become huge sources of traffic to your site. It requires only your time and nothing else. All you have to do is share your knowledge and expertise. It will also build your reputation as an expert and people always want to



work with experts. As an example you can visit this online community forum created for the Chamber of Commerce: <http://groups.google.com/group/Canyon-Lake-Texas>.

4. Start your own newsletter subscription

If you want lifetime traffic to your site, it's time to start your own newsletter. It's a proven fact that only 5% of visitors buy from any site at first visit. If you get them on your mailing list, you can follow up with valuable content and they will come back again and again to your site.

Remember to always be sure and add a source box with a link going back to your site. Good luck.

Cindy Wharton is the owner of Local Tech Service. If you would like additional information, she can be reached at 830-708-2692 or www.localtechservice.com.

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The Christmas cookie *by Linda Allen*

What is it about the holiday season that brings out the cookie monster? The rest of the year, I find pleasure in the classics—the deep, rich Katharine Hepburn brownie spiked with walnuts; the raisin-studded oatmeal cookie the size of a small saucer that alternates between chewy and crispy in cahoots with the weather; the powdery pecan sandy that disappears faster than I

can make it when my father is in the kitchen.

But come the fall, come the leaves sifting from the trees, come the evenings earlier and cooler, I find myself drifting toward my stack of cookbooks, searching for that ineffable difference, that cookie that will shine beyond all other cookies for the year: the keeper.

One year, it was cranberry turtlebars. I knew that was a keeper when people followed me through the room, arms extended toward the silver cookie tray that had held a mound of garnet and deep chocolate cookies and was now a desert, bereft of even crumbs.

“Are there more?” I heard them say. “Will you bring us more?”

And then there was the French Whatnot. Fanciful and pretty, it caught people’s eye. I’d see them lift it up, scrutinize its fluted, ruffly shape, pop it in their mouth, walk away. Pause. Turn back. Pick up another Whatnot. Examine it. Pop it in their mouth...

Perhaps it’s the spices that invade the kitchen with the baking dough—the cinnamon, the cloves and nutmeg. With my palms dusted in a fragrant brown powder, I am reminded that it is this perfume

that inspired the voyages of Christopher Columbus, Magellan, Vasco de Gamma. It is the flavors of Christmas that pried open the doors to the world.

Maybe it’s the sensuousness of flour and butter between the fingers, the childhood lure of mudpies and playdough.

Or maybe it’s the look of gratitude as we surrender to the sins of indulgence, slip that buttery morsel between our lips and find ourselves smiling through the powdered sugar, loving the pretty platter piled high with jewel-like cookies, loving the friend who immersed herself in the dough, loving the creative impulse that nests in the kitchen, loving the season.

Bring on the Christmas cookies!

Linda Allen is the owner of Linda Allen Catering and Linda’s Fine Food to Go. Located at 500 FM 2325 in Wimberley, Linda’s Fine Food to Go offers a wide selection of carry-out items and entertains special orders. Linda Allen Catering has offered full service catering to the Hill Country for 15 years. Call her at 512-847-5464.

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Enforcement of child support and/or visitation rights

by Carrie E. Campbell, J.D.

If a parent or custodian of a child is unable to gain the other parent’s voluntary compliance with a judge’s orders regarding child support and/or visitation rights, the primary recourse is to seek assistance from the courts to enforce its order. The process requires the filing of a Motion for Enforcement to re-open the court’s file, then the court will issue an Order to Appear requiring the offending party to be in court on a given date and time to explain why he or she has not complied with the judge’s instructions.

If a parent is found to have wrongly interfered with another’s rights of visitation, then the judge may sentence the parent to jail, fine the parent and/or modify rights of possession to avoid the problem reoccurring. The judge may use similar techniques of persuasion to enforce child support orders.

Moreover, in child support cases, the Office of the Attorney General may also become involved. The methods available to the state to enforce child support orders without going to court include: (1) withholding support from the non-custodial parent’s paycheck; (2) intercepting and applying tax refund checks, lottery winnings or other money due from governmental agencies; (3) filing liens; and (4) suspending driver’s, professional, hunting and fishing licenses. The Attorney General may also file its own Motion for Enforcement to initiate court proceedings.

For the Attorney General’s office to act, the child support must be past-due more than three months, and it will respond to any requests for enforcement when its caseloads permit it to do so. In all visitation enforcement and/or child support cases which require

more immediate attention, it is necessary for persons to hire a private attorney. Often the prevailing party in an enforcement action will be able to obtain a judgment or attorney fees if attorneys fees are incurred. For more information, you should contact the Child Support Division of the Attorney General’s office or an attorney of your choice.

Carrie Campbell is the managing law partner in the firm of Mounger & Campbell, LLP. She is also a wife, mother of two girls, and is a member of the Rotary Club of Wimberley, Friends of the Wimberley Village Library, and the Operations Committee for the new Community Center. The office is located at 173 FM3237, Bldg. B, in Wimberley. She can be reached at 512-847-1308.



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