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## Featured Staff of the Toxicology Team

### **Adrienne Coleman DVM**

Dr. Coleman obtained her doctor of veterinary medicine degree from the University of Illinois. Following graduation, she relocated to northern Illinois and practiced small animal medicine for seven years in a Chicago suburb. In private practice, Dr. Coleman enjoyed internal, pediatric, and special species medicine. Outside of practicing veterinary medicine Dr. Coleman enjoys researching her family's history, gardening, and spending time with her family.



### **Jennifer Yunker CVT**

I am from Homer Glen, IL, currently living with my boyfriend in our newly purchased home in Villa Grove, IL. I worked at a small animal hospital in Orland Park, IL for 6 years. I started off first as a kennel attendant, then as a receptionist and then as a technician. I also did an externship in Blackstone, IL for 3 months in 2009. I graduated from Joliet Junior College- Vet Tech Program in May 2010. I also was the secretary of the Vet Tech Club at JJC. I started working at the APCC in March 2011.



### **Tamara Foss CVT, Client Services Manager**

I started out on the hotline back in 2000 but moved to working behind the scenes with the databases, primarily the substance database, when we started using our on-line Medical Record Database, AnTox, in January of 2002. I especially love being able to provide hotline staff with labeling and MSDS information for the over 105,000 agents we have represented in the substance database.



Having information at their fingertips supports them in delivering efficient and very high quality case management for pets in need.

### **A Short Survey**

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center is considering expanding our online services and availability, and we are requesting your help! We would like you to complete a short survey which should take no more than 2-5 minutes. Please let us know your opinion by following this link

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JYNF3SM>.

### **APCC Hotline Hint**

We have made numerous improvements to phone system which should help us better serve your clinic. When you *call on a registered clinic phone number* (your main line or back line), then the majority of the time you will be routed *your call will be routed directly to a veterinarian*. We have designed this as a means for your veterinary staff to directly reach our veterinarians, *please have your clients contact us from their own phone line* whenever possible. Otherwise your wait time may be lengthened if all our DVM's are speaking with owners who are calling from clinic phone lines.

### **Did you know?**

With seasonal allergies in full bloom, we often see albuterol inhaler exposures. Albuterol is rapidly absorbed and effects include tachycardia, vomiting, panting, hyperactivity, tremors, hypokalemia, weakness and death. Treatment of albuterol inhaler exposure in dogs involves controlling tachycardia, cardiac arrhythmias, and severe hypokalemia, as well as managing CNS signs. Tremors and seizures can be treated with valium. For severe, persistent tachycardia, a beta-blocker such as propranolol should be given. If the serum potassium level falls below 2.5 mEq/L, IV fluids can be supplemented with KCl (not to exceed 0.5 mEq/kg/hr IV). IV potassium replacement should be used cautiously in patients with impaired renal function. Prognosis in most cases is very good with appropriate care, however, animals with known or underlying cardiac disease may be at risk for decompensation and sudden death.

### **And did you know?**

Summertime is also a common time for exposures to various different allergy type medications. These medications can present serious problems for pets. A listing of common ingredients includes pseudoephedrine, oxymetazoline (in nasal sprays) and antihistamines. The antihistamine list is very lengthy. Ones that are most commonly encountered are diphenhydramine, cetirizine, hydroxyzine, loratadine/desloratidine, and chlorpheniramine. Some of these medications may be paired with other problematic ingredients like acetaminophen, aspirin, ibuprofen, NSAIDS, phenylephrine, theophylline, and alcohols.

## Summer Hazards for Pets Quick Guide

Summer brings days of fun in the sun, but summer can also bring hazards to our pets. Lawn and garden products, toxic plants and mushrooms, and other outdoor hazards such as charcoal lighter fluid and pool chemicals, can pose problems if pets get into them. Below is a list of relative toxicity of various summer hazards to which a pet may be exposed.



**Low toxicity** products may cause gastrointestinal upset, but unlikely to cause serious problems unless very large amounts are ingested: Glow jewelry, most N-P-K fertilizers, plain Bone meal, Mosquito coils or Dunks, Charcoal briquettes, some Termite stakes, ant baits, yard insecticides, and roach baits

**Moderate toxicity** products may cause significant signs beyond mild gastrointestinal upset: Charcoal lighter fluids, Moldy items from trash, yard or compost pile, some Diazinon or chlorpyrifos granules, DEET-containing insect repellants, Citronella lamps/torches, some Spring blooming bulbs

**High toxicity** products have the potential for very serious or life-threatening signs: pool chemicals, Metaldehyde, Zinc phosphide, Methomyl, Disulfoton, and Rodenticides

### Useful Websites

As gardens are in full bloom, it's time to remind clients of the potential hazards some plants may pose to pets. Below are some links to articles that veterinary staff may find useful in answering pet owners' questions.

[Easter Lily Toxicosis in Cats](#)

[Spring-Blooming Bulbs: A Year-Round Problem](#)

And our website listing nontoxic and toxic can be found on our webpage at:  
<http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/>

If you are having trouble identifying a plant then check out our website:  
<http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/> <http://plants.usda.gov/java/>

### Toxicant Update - Rodenticides

New regulations regarding the use of rodenticides

In May 2008 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a ruling on rodenticide risk mitigation. The regulations posted in the ruling require all products on the market to meet the new guidelines by June 2011. The EPA felt there was an

unacceptably high number of exposure incidents in children as well as to non target wildlife. The ten rodenticides involved are first generation anticoagulants: warfarin, chlorophacinone and diphacinone; second generation anticoagulants: brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum and difethialone and non-anticoagulants: bromethalin, cholecalciferol and zinc phosphide.

The highlights from the new regulations include products that consumers may purchase will come in package size less than or equal to one pound, may not contain a second generation anticoagulant, may not be in a loose bait form such as pellets, and must include a bait station for each unit.

Second generation anticoagulants will be available for sale for use around agricultural buildings as well as for professional applications, however distribution to and sales in "consumer" stores (grocery stores, drug stores, hardware stores and club stores) will be prohibited, and bait stations will be required for all outdoor above ground placement, as well as indoor placement where children and pets may have access to them.

Overall, these guidelines should help reduce pet exposure to rodenticide. However, it is possible that when a pet is exposed to a rodenticide it may be more common to see exposure to cholecalciferol, bromethalin or zinc phosphide. So please remember to have the owner bring the packaging when they come into the clinic so the active ingredient can be verified.

Below is a link to articles about cholecalciferol and bromethalin toxicities and treatments, written by the toxicologist and veterinarians at APCC:

<http://www.aspcapro.org/animal-poison-control-center-articles.php#VetMed>

### **The Summer Shedding Season is Here – Dyson has Introduced a New Groom Tool to Help**

Nearly 40% of US households own a dog, and shedding is a constant concern. The Dyson Groom tool is a self-cleaning vacuum accessory designed to capture a dog's hair before it spreads around the house.



The Dyson Groom has stainless steel bristles and only removes loose hair and dead skin from the dog. As the pressure is released from the tool's handle and the bristles retract, full suction is transferred to capture hair hygienically in the vacuum.

The Dyson Groom tool also benefits allergy sufferers by capturing and retaining allergens.

Dr. Kat Miller, the ASPCA's Director of

Applied Science and Research, notes that regular grooming will help keep pet's hair in good condition by removing dirt, spreading natural oils throughout their coat, preventing tangles and keeping their skin clean and irritant-free. Plus grooming time's a great time to check for fleas and flea dirt – those little black specks that indicate a pet is playing host to a flea family.

The Dyson Groom tool joins a full range of pet hair solutions, such as the Dyson Animal vacuum, and additional tools and accessories designed to remove dirt and pet hair from the home and car. In support of the ASPCA, Dyson has donated products and funding to help pets in need.

### **A Special Thank You**

We at the Animal Poison Control Center would like to take a moment and give you a great big "Thank You." Many of our referrals come from veterinary clinics and we appreciate the trust and confidence that you place in us. We continue to strive to provide you and your clients with the highest level of knowledge, service and care. In these "tough times" we firmly believe in the quality work that we do, our commitment to excellence and in you and your practice.

### **Not a VLPP Member?**

If you are not a member of the Veterinary Lifeline Partner Program and would like to join, please click [here](#) or call (888) 332-3651 to be prepared for any poison emergency.

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