

MEDIA RELEASE
22 March, 2010

Monday

Poppins Pet-Sitters keep your pet safe this Easter – and away from Bunny Eggs!

If you're going away this Easter what are you doing to keep your pets safe, loved and away from chocolate? Sometimes relying on your friends just doesn't give you the peace of mind, wondering if they'll be walked, cuddled or in some cases FED!

Poppins Pet-Sitters are Qualified Veterinary Nurses that can come to your pets in their home, walk them, feed them, medicate them, teach them – and even stay the night with them!

The best thing about this service is that their pet-sitters are all and vet nurses and certified animal professionals. They can detect poor health that may otherwise be unnoticeable to the untrained eye and they know what is good for our dogs and what isn't – like CHOCOLATE!

Poppins Pet-Sitters owner Hannah Reed says many people don't know why chocolate is 'taboo' for dogs and tend to give them Easter treats out of 'love' or 'kindness'.

"Chocolate contains a chemical called theobromine which is highly toxic to many animals – especially dogs," she said.

"Dogs don't have a particular liver enzyme we humans do to break down the chemical."

Veterinarian Susan Carr from The Animal Welfare League said a common case seen over this period is chocolate poisoning.

"Over the Easter period chocolate poisoning is still quite commonly seen in Veterinary Clinics, usually the result of a well meaning parent or child who just doesn't understand the dangers, or a cheeky pooch getting into the forbidden Easter basket," Dr Carr said.

Hannah says if your dog does raid the Easter Bunny keep a close watch for up to 72 hours, and if they show any signs of poisoning, take your dog to the vet immediately.

"Symptoms of chocolate toxicity can appear 12-72 hours after 'the raid' but likely to start showing within 2-4 hours and can be vomiting, diarrhoea, nervousness, tremors, seizures, excessive panting or light and sound sensitivity," Said Hannah.

For interviews or further information contact Hannah info@poppinspetsitters.com.au or 0423675693