

## Pet Friendly Rodenticide?

Recently we have had a few encounters with clients mentioning a pet friendly rodenticide that has been advertised to them in shops. This is quite worrying to us and as such we would like to gently remind everyone that some advertising can be misleading and to phone your vets if you have any concerns regarding rodenticide ingestion.



The phrase pet friendly rodenticide is a misnomer, as there are currently no products on the market that will kill a rat, but be 100% safe for a cat or dog. Looking at the raw ingredients in most rat baits (warfarin, brodifacoum, flocoumafen), they are still either directly toxic, or cause death by bleeding. This is caused by interference with Vitamin K, which is necessary to allow clotting, and therefore prevent prolonged bleeding.

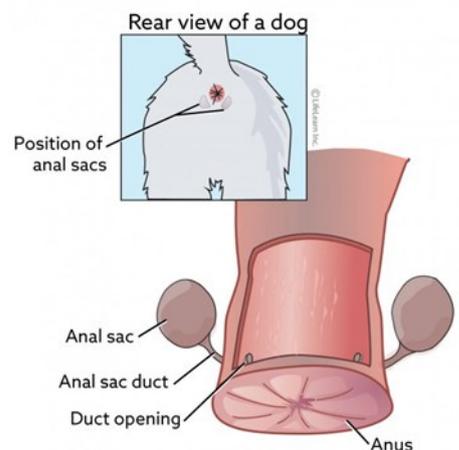
Looking at advertisements around the internet, phrases such as “deterrent to pets” or “safer for pets” have been used in describing some of the newer rodenticides. These are also very misleading. The fine print on these claims refers to their reduced palatability for pets (dogs in particular). The theory is that because it is less enticing for a dog to eat, then it is inherently safer. This is not the case. The bait will still contain the same amount of toxin and potential to seriously harm or kill your pet.

All in all, we still get several rodenticide ingestion patients every year. Luckily we have diligent clients who will immediately ring us and get their animal in so that we can induce vomiting and supply prompt care. It is important to remain observant and careful with using rat bait in areas where pets and unintended targets may have access.

## Anal Sac Disease in Dogs

### What are anal sacs?

Commonly known as ‘anal glands’, anal sacs are two small pockets located at approximately 4 and 6 o’clock within the anus. Glands within the sacs produce an odorous fluid, which is then stored in the sac, and released via a small duct into the anus most commonly during defecation. Chemicals within the anal sac fluids also act as territorial markers.



### How do anal sacs cause issues?

Issues occur when normal emptying of fluid from the anal sacs, via the ducts, is prevented. These issues can include impaction (clogging), inflammation and infection, through to scarring and formation of an abscess. The underlying cause may be associated with a change in stool consistency, food allergies, irritable bowel disease (IBD), atopy and obesity. This can result in owners noticing their dogs scooting along the ground; licking or nibbling around the tail or anus; or experiencing defecation issues such as straining or pain.

### What to do?

If you notice any of the mentioned changes in behaviour with your dog, we can discuss a range of options including expression of the anal sacs, change in diet – including increased fibre content, or implementing a weight loss plan.

## Important Vaccination Reminders

### Parvovirus in dogs

A current outbreak is being seen in parts of NZ including Auckland and Christchurch, and includes cases in older dogs, not just puppies. Vaccination is a very important tool to reduce the incidence of the disease. This includes:

- Puppy vaccinations – At least 3 vaccinations from 6-8 weeks of age
- Booster vaccinations – A year after completing the puppy vaccinations, and then every 2-3 years



### Calicivirus in rabbits

Filavac: Protects against the rabbit calicivirus (Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV)) variants 1 and 2.

The recommended vaccination protocol for Filavac is for rabbits to be vaccinated from 10 weeks of age followed by an annual booster.

As well as vaccination, there are simple steps to minimise spread of the disease which include:

- Keeping rabbits separated from wild rabbits
- Washing hands between handling rabbits
- Controlling insects such as flies and fleas
- Thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting cages and equipment

## Tis the Season for Fleas

Some facts:

- The flea population consists of 50% eggs, 30% larvae, 15% pupae and only 5% adult fleas
- 95% of the flea population is in the environment
- A female flea can lay 2000 eggs in her lifetime or 30-40 eggs per day
- Dogs and cats can be infected with tapeworm larvae by swallowing a flea
- Some cats and dogs can be allergic to the saliva of a flea



Prevention is better than treatment:

- Treat all animals in the household (safe, effective and veterinary grade option)
- Vacuum frequented areas well and often (could combine with a flea bomb)
- Wash pet bedding in a hot wash (weekly for 4 weeks during an infestation)

## Did you know.....

- A Woodpecker can peck 20 times per second.
- Emus and kangaroos cannot walk backwards.
- Elephants are the only animal that can't jump.
- Giraffes and humans have the same number of bones in their necks: 7
- The tongue of a Giraffe is so long it can lick inside its own ear.
- Baby dolphins have spines on the sides of their tongue. The spines zip up to make a straw so that they can drink the mother's milk without getting salt water in it.
- The slowest fish is the seahorse, which moves along at about 0.01 mph
- Ferrets are currently the third most popular pet in the US. There are an estimated eight to ten million ferrets in the United States being kept as pets.

