



South Clinic: 920 Yonge St, Toronto ON – (416) 920-2002  
North Clinic: 280 Sheppard Ave. E., Toronto ON - (416) 226-3663

## GRAPES AND RAISINS MAY BE TOXIC FOR DOGS

### A note from the VEC ICU



We have seen several cases of acute renal failure in dogs caused by ingestion of raisins or grapes. Many clients are unaware of the potential hazards of grape ingestion in dogs. The mechanism of renal injury is unclear, and there appears to be great individual variation between dogs in terms of tolerance to grapes or raisins. It is not known if renal toxicity is an idiosyncratic reaction or if the toxic principle is only present in some particular grapes. The lowest “dose” of raisins known to cause acute renal failure is 0.11 oz/kg. Many dogs will ingest amounts far exceeding this and not be affected.

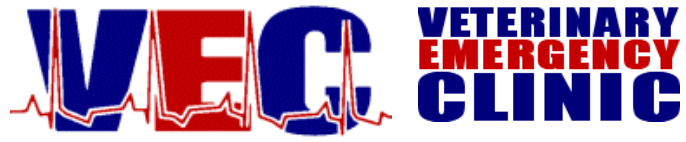
Typically, an affected dog will develop vomiting, diarrhea or lethargy within 12-24 hours after ingestion of grapes or raisins. Within 24 hours of exposure, creatinine, urea and phosphorus will start to rise. Pathology findings indicate acute necrosis of the proximal renal tubules.



A review of records by the APCC showed that 53% of affected dogs survived, and 35% of affected dogs had complete resolution of clinical signs and azotemia. Current recommendations are that any significant raisin or grape exposure should be treated aggressively with decontamination, fluid diuresis and monitoring of renal values. Aggressive and careful ICU treatment of renal failure caused by raisin or grape toxicity may be worthwhile, as many survive.



**To refer directly to the VEC ICU call (416) 920-2002**



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