



COLLIE ADVOCATE

Tri-State Collie Rescue Newsletter

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How Much Chocolate is Toxic for Dogs?

Dr. Debora Lichtenberg, VMD

As a veterinarian, I get the most calls — by far— during the year-end holiday season (and Easter and Halloween) about chocolate ingestion by pets. Chocolate can be very toxic to your dog, but the amount and the type of chocolate is critical in assessing whether or not you have to panic. Below are some golden rules to place on your refrigerator **while waiting for your vet to call back.**

Rule #1: Know Your Pet’s Weight and How Much Chocolate Was Eaten.

With any poisoning or toxicity question, know you pet’s approximate weight and the best guess as to how much of the toxin your pet may have eaten. Try to round your dog’s weight to the nearest 10 pounds and get the best idea of the most chocolate your dog could have eaten, such as three 16 ounce bags of peanut M&Ms, 4 ounces of dark chocolate, and so on.

Rule #2: What Kind of Chocolate?

The darker the chocolate, the more toxic: Baker’s chocolate is scary while white chocolate is almost nontoxic.

So, How Much Chocolate is Toxic for Dogs?

Baking Chocolate: Approximately 0.5 ounce for a 10-pound dog, 1 ounce for a 20-pound dog, etc., all require a call to the vet. Baking chocolate includes Baker’s Chocolate, Callebaut, Ghirardelli, Lindt, and so on.

Dark Chocolate: Approximately 1.5 ounces for a 10-pound dog, 3 ounces for a 20 pound dog, etc., all require a call to the vet.

Milk Chocolate: Approximately 3.5 ounces (more than 2 regular Hershey’s milk chocolate bars), for a 10-pound dog, 7 ounces for a 20-pound dog, etc., all require a call to the vet. Milk chocolate includes M&Ms, Hershey’s, Kit Kat, Toblerone, etc. Semi-sweet chocolate has a similar toxicity.



White Chocolate: All but impossible for a dog to overdose on. A 10-pound dog would need to ingest 47 pounds of white chocolate!

Many of my clients panic when their dog eats a few M&Ms or some chocolate brownies. Neither of these products is solid chocolate, so the amount of chocolate ingested is much less and therefore less toxic. The pet may still get an upset stomach or diarrhea but you don’t have to rush to the vet.

As with most things in life, if you are at all in doubt, **be safe and call your vet** or go to your local emergency practice.

Adoption Statistics

We are proud to report that Tri-State Collie Rescue found new and loving homes for 115 Collies in 2018. And, we have decided to begin keeping track of how many dogs come into our care every month:

- * September 12
- * October 20
- * November 11
- * December 12

Currently, we have 14 dogs in foster care and 3 forever fosters.

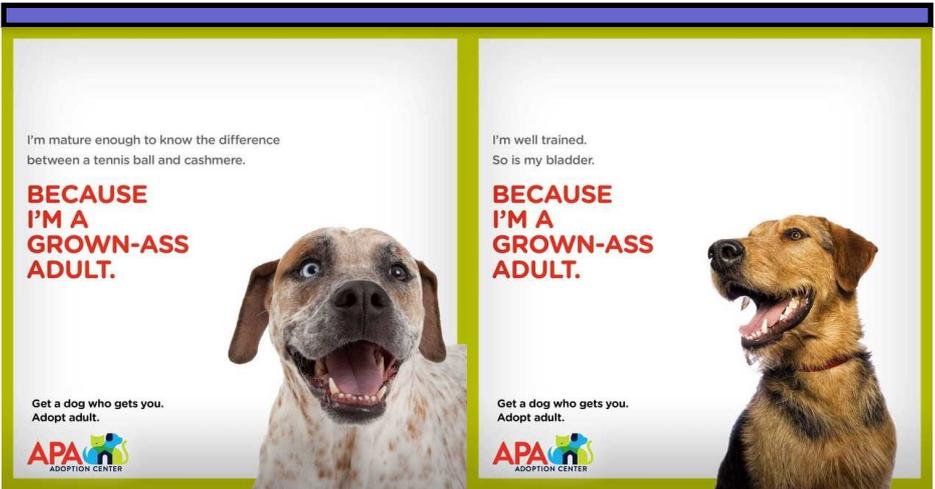
Monthly Adoptions Numbers

6 in October: Illinois, 1; Kansas, 1; Massachusetts, 1; Michigan 1; Ohio, 2

16 in November: Delaware, 1; Illinois 3; Indiana, 1; Michigan 4; New York, 2; Ohio, 3; Pennsylvania, 1; Virginia, 1

13 in December: Indiana, 1; Kentucky, 1; Michigan, 2; Ohio 6; Pennsylvania 2; Tennessee, 1

If you or someone you know has always wanted to own a collie, please visit our website at tristatecollierescue.org and fill out our adoption application. It is just that simple. We will take it from there; great vet references are mandatory, of course!



ADOPTED!

How a marketing campaign for older shelter dogs changed the world for many. Here's the story of "Because I'm A Grown-Ass Adult".

All it took was a change in vocabulary — and an innovative campaign — for the Animal Protective Association of Missouri (APA) to see an increase in older dog adoptions.

"Unfortunately, adult dogs are often overlooked, no matter how great they are. I initially took this challenge to a few of our board members: Help us find a way to bring awareness to the many great qualities of our senior dogs," says Sarah Javier, president and executive director of the APA. "One person responded, 'Well, stop calling them seniors!'" A better name? "Call them what they are — grown-ass adults."

Sarah says they knew the campaign was a little risky but would be memorable.

"Within one week the campaign went viral on social media with over 500,000 views and tens of thousands of shares," Sarah says. The APA had people and shelters reaching out to them from all over the world.

"Dogs who were featured on social media were finding homes within 24 to 48 hours, which was not typical," Sarah says. The average time adult dogs spend at the APA went from eight-and-a-half days to five-and-a-half days. "When people are ready to add someone amazing to their family, they just might remember this campaign and consider a Grown-Ass Adult. And when that happens, that is the success."

KEEP THEM SAFE

Microchips
Work

Taken from
AKC's website



Collie pup being scanned

That's not all, though. The unique identifier in the chip won't do you any good unless you register it with a national pet recovery database. You'll want to use a recovery service with access to different microchip databases.

When you register your dog's microchip, enter all relevant contact information. It's a good idea to include both landline

and cell phone numbers for you and anyone else in your household who is responsible for ownership. You don't want to miss a call telling you that your canine companion has been found. Remember to keep your contact information up to date with the registry, too.

According to statistics, one in three pets become lost at some point in their lives, and yours could very well be one of them. For the AKC, that's more than enough reason to microchip your canine companion. But, how do dog microchips work? In honor of the upcoming National Chip Your Pet Month this May, we spell out the details of microchipping and its importance.

A microchip is a radio-frequency identification transponder that carries a unique identification number, and is roughly the size of a grain of rice. When the microchip is scanned by a vet or shelter, it transmits the ID number. There's no battery, no power required, and no moving parts. The microchip is injected under the loose skin between your dog's shoulder blades and can be done in your vet's office. It's no more invasive than a vaccination.

According to AKC Reunite, "Pets with microchips are up to 20 times more likely to be reunited with their owners." It's a simple procedure, it's not expensive, and the risks are minimal. So, take this opportunity to have your dog microchipped, because the thought of losing him forever is too much to bear.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Our own Tracy Wonderly first fell in love at an early age. She loved Lassie, from the TV show. It only seems right that her life mimics that of Timmy and Lassie—right down to the farm animals and country life.

I live in a small town in SE Michigan with my husband, Gary and adult son, Adam. We have 2 other sons who live nearby. Gary and I were just babies when we got married ... well, I was... LOL. I am 59 now.



Tracy Wonderly and her family

My five siblings and I grew up just down the road from my current home and my husband, Gary, grew up in the next town over. My family had dogs and ponies and horses and other farm animals. Every Sunday, we would go down the road to Grandma's house for dinner and then we would play and wait for Lassie to come on TV. That's when I fell in love with Lassie! Even though I didn't have a collie myself, I do believe I knew where every collie in our county lived.

As soon as Gary and I married, I told him of my dream to own a collie. And when our oldest was about 3, I got my first collie. In 1985 I went to work as a bather/brusher for a groomer in a vet's office. She tricked me into becoming her apprentice when she went on maternity leave and I've been a dog groomer ever since. Eventually, we owned a shop together and that is when I started with rescue.

The first collie I ever rescued just showed up in my yard one day; he was dragging a rope and he was a filthy mess. I cleaned him up and quickly found him a home.

That's about when I started showing my own collies a little bit and got some points on a couple. But I am not a competitive person and my heart is in rescue. Anything, squirrels, birds, bunnies, kittens, and always collies.

Gary and I have lost track of how many foster collies have come through our home. I know it is well over 60 and then a few other breeds came through now and then that I rehomed. I have only been with Tri State for 4 years but have known Sharon Goodburn for many years. She was always someone I could call if I was struggling on a decision with a collie or a home or even a health issue with a collie.

One of my fondest memories with TSCR would be fostering Annie and her 2 surviving pups. Annie came to us from a horrible place with several other collies, mostly whites. Because

she had a prolapsed uterus, an infection got to her pups and out of 9 only 2, Mac and Miracle, survived. They had to be delivered via C-section. Annie did not have enough milk at first and she was so young it was hard for her to relax inside a house. So I bottle fed them. Annie was fearful but as I sat with her and her pups she started figuring out how to care

for them and ended up being a great mother.

While at the vets after her C-section, Annie accidentally injured Miracle's front leg. It was a stretching crushing injury. The vets and specialists tried to save it but the leg quit growing at about 12 weeks. We were out of options. The leg had to be amputated.

Well, as most people know, Miracle became part of my permanent family. Along with Miracle, we have two more collies: Jackson (from a great breeder here in Michigan) and Sable who was a local stray. I also have two Pomeranian brothers, Wicket (born deaf) and Chewy; they are 8 years old now. Along with two house cats left over from my 12 years of TNR work with cat rescue, we have a beautiful gypsy horse named Finnigan and 2 mini horses in their 20's, Bonnie and Violet. We even have 4 feral barn cats! And a few years ago our son, Adam, got interested in chickens — for eggs, not dinner. You can bet we almost always have one or two collie fosters here.

I serve as TSCR's Vice-President and as Adoption Coordinator. Both jobs take a lot of time to do right. Talking to applicants and trying to match up the right dog to the right family is not easy. There are never enough collies for all the people who want them. But, then again, I am happy that we don't have as many collies needing rescue as people who want them.

I would love to see more of the bad breeders shut down and hope that we have made some headway in that direction. Collies are meant to be indoor pets. They love people, especially children. They want to be with you, even to the bathroom! They are intuitive of our moods and they will hike with you or just hang out while you read a book. The perfect dogs in my opinion!! I love all the support TSCR gets from our volunteers and supporters out there. We could never do all this without a lot of help. Thanks!!

WISH LIST

How can you really help us help them?

Foster. Foster. Foster.

We are constantly in need of loving foster homes.

Along with fosters, we need:

- * Transporters
- * Gas Cards
- * Volunteers
- * Discounted Veterinary Care
- * Grooming Services
- * Petco/PetSmart/Chewy Gift Cards and Cash Donations

**SPECIAL! SPECIAL!
READ ALL ABOUT IT!!**

We now have an **Amazon Wish List!** Visit our Facebook page for the link to see what is currently needed for the care of our foster collies. We couldn't do it without you!