



Otonabee Animal Hospital

“Going the distance for you and your pet!”

(705) 743-4936 www.otonabah.com

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Otonabee-Animal-Hospital/298005720583?fref=ts>

Notices for your information: We now require 48 hours notice for all food and medication orders, please. Secondly we are currently accepting donations for Catnip who are particularly in need of wet & dry kitten food. Thank you ☺

December 2017 Newsletter

Essential Oil – Friend or Foe?



We at Otonabee are becoming increasingly concerned at how often people are turning to essential oils for their pets health.

We would like to make it clear that we do not disagree with the use of natural remedies & essential oils where medically safe & appropriate – and this is the crucial point we would like to discuss with you in this

month's newsletter.

Many of us are turning more and more towards natural remedies – a desire to enhance our health, or perhaps maintain it. Or simply to infuse our environment with pleasant or relaxing scents. It is therefore only natural that we look for the same natural benefits for our beloved pets.



The problem here however, is that what is safe and pleasant for us is not automatically safe, curative or even pleasant for animals.



The key to remember is that “*natural*” does not automatically translate into “*safe.*”

When you consider that dogs and cats are a great deal smaller than us & have a sense of smell that is **unbelievably* sensitive compared to our own, it becomes clear that essential oils and other natural remedies are not something

we should be exposing our pets to without first seeking professional medical advice from our vet.

In addition, many of the natural products & oils that we use are actually severely toxic to our furry friends; and some that are safe for dogs are not safe for cats.

Unfortunately, it is very easy to be confused by all the information available to us these days, both on the internet and in the stores.

This does not apply to everyone, but often self-appointed experts

recommend essential oils based on the fact that they are beneficial to humans, or tolerated by one animal species. Sadly, acting on that assumption can sometimes prove fatal.



Technical bit for interest ☺

*Dogs have 2.8×10^{10} (28,000,000,000 or 28 billion) olfactory (smelling) cells in a $7,000\text{mm}^2$ surface area compared to humans mere 2×10^{10} (20,000,000,000 or 20 billion) olfactory cells in only 500mm^2 of surface area.

Dogs can smell what humans can at dilutions of 1/100 to 1/10,000,000.

Cats are similar to dogs, but also have a well developed flehmen (the vomeronasal organ). They have 5,000,000 smell detecting cells in $4,000\text{mm}^2$ of olfactory epithelium vs a human's 200mm^2 - 500mm^2 .

We have also included this list of some toxic oils and signs of poisoning from Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine's website:



(It is NOT safe to assume that anything not included in this list is safe - always consult with your Veterinary Surgeon first ☺)

ESSENTIAL, 'HERBAL', OIL POISONING

Description Essential Oils, volatile oils extracted from plants, that are components of 'herbal' medicines such as flea or tick treatments or other products can be toxic in dogs and/or cats. Melaleuca (Tea Tree) Oil, Neem (Margosa) Oil, Pennyroyal Oil, Potpourri Oil, Pine Oil, Peppermint Oil, Cinnamon Oil, Lemongrass Oil, Clove Oil, Thyme Oil, Cedarwood Oil, Rosemary Oil, Eucalyptus Oil, and d-Limonene have been in products associated with signs of toxicity. Signs depend on species affected, agent, dose, and method of exposure.

Species Canine, Feline

Signs Abnormal behavior, aggression, changing habits, Alopecia, Anorexia, Ataxia, Back spasms, Blepharospasm, Blindness, Colic, Coma, Congestion oral mucous membranes, Constant or increased vocalization, Coughing, Decreased respiratory rate, Dehydration, Diarrhea, Disoriented, Dullness, Dysmetria, Dyspnea, Epistaxis, Excessive salivation, Excitement, Fever, Forelimb spasms, Gagging, retching, Generalized lameness or stiffness, Generalized weakness, Head, face, neck spasms, Hemoglobinuria or myoglobinuria, Hemoptysis coughing up blood, Hindlimb spasms, Hyperesthesia, Hypothermia, Inability to stand, Increased respiratory rate, Lacrimation, Melena or occult blood in feces, stools, Mouth, oral mucosal or tongue pain, Mydriasis, Oral mucosal ulcers, vesicles, Pain on external abdominal pressure, Pale, Paraparesis, Pruritus, Red or brown urine, Seizures or syncope, Skin edema, Skin erythema, Skin pain, Skin ulcer, Tachycardia, Tongue ulcers, vesicles, Trembling, Tremor, Vomiting or regurgitation