

The dog deaths mystery in Waikato papers in 2016 could be from anything from eating Macadamia nuts which they like, but their mercury takes only one to kill some dogs or cats. I'm highly allergic to mercury, so one Macadamia nut or biscuit causes me to suffer pimples and boils.

Grapes and raisins can cause irreversible damage to dogs' kidneys, with possible deaths. Onions, garlic and chives can cause hemolytic anemia, that causes the destruction of red blood cells. Kidney damage may follow. Dogs are meat eaters so are safe with most meats, but not if rancid (bad).

A vet may induce vomiting to look for the source. Very few know that many dogs are gluten intolerant, which they tolerate better than some people, but can have a bad smell.

Another possible cause is Roundup, which some councils spray too much. Some farmers get headaches after using it, I get swollen hands and eyes from it being up to 30 metres away, for up to five days. I have given a doctor's certificate to the council to not spray closer than 30 m from our garden, but they forget. Their spraying in the adjacent park affected our hydrangeas, which their staff acknowledged.

Then there is the second whammy effect, which, if any person or animal has one health problem, then even a minor second one can cause drastic results.

Read the chapter on Dogs Working, Guard, Pets. in 'Animals Other'.

This occurs in warm areas with tick borne diseases such as Theileriosis and has caused serious damage, so farmers should learn how to reduce it.

Gluten intolerance now has a double whammy in that some farmers have been spraying with Roundup to dry the wheat more quickly, so most wheat in some countries contains it.

As an agricultural consultant since 1960, working in many countries, knowledge of animal health has widened.

Treatment includes a charcoal capsule which I take one of every day to improve digestion, following a shortened intestine.

Signs of toxicity include vomiting, loss of appetite, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, decreased urine production (possibly leading to lack of urine production), weakness and drunken gait.

Onset of signs typically occurs within 24 hours, though they can start just a few hours after consumption.

Dogs are allergic to onions to varying degrees, but the effects can be cumulative. Poisoning can result from raw, cooked and dehydrated forms. Avoid feeding table scraps and any foods cooked with onions (including some baby foods). Check your ingredients!

Signs are secondary to anemia, such as pale gums, rapid heart rate, weakness and lethargy. Other signs include vomiting, diarrhea, and bloody urine.

Treatment: blood transfusions and/or oxygen administration may be necessary, followed by specific fluid therapy.

Pure baking chocolate is the most toxic, while milk chocolate requires a much higher quantity to cause harm. A 20 pound dog can be poisoned after consuming about 2 ounces of baking chocolate, but it would take nearly 20 ounces of milk chocolate to cause harm. Ingestion of cacao bean mulch can also be. Signs include excitement, tremors, seizures, vomiting, diarrhea, abnormal heart rate/rhythm, drunken gait, hyperthermia and coma.

Clean green?

Not when PKE containing poisonous levels of manganese and copper is fed, and comes from a Foot and Mouth Disease country, and Roundup (Grazon is safer) and 1080 are allowed everywhere, when possums skins should be subsidised and 1080 allowed only in high altitudes above stream heights.

The Paparoa, Northland school run a Possum Purge. Teams aim to catch the most possums for sponsored prizes. They can either pluck the fur off when the possums are warm, or bring them to be plucked by machines. The school sells the fur which is worth over \$100 kilo, so it is a great win win. In 2015, more than 1,000 possums made a dent in the local population. If all communities did the same, less 1080 would be needed. To help reduce numbers and give employment, the government should pay those who kill them.