

**Cairn No No's, Oh Oh's and Emergencies** - This is a list of products, procedures or things (not all inclusive) that Col. Potter members recommend you watch out for and avoid. Some of this was learned the hard way and we hope you never repeat our mistakes.

- \* **ACE aka Acepromazine:** This is a commonly used tranquilizer for dogs. It's NOT for Cairns or any terriers. This product often works the opposite on terriers and can make them very hyper or aggressive instead of calm. Google 'contraindications to use of acepromazine for dogs' to see other side effects. Have your vet write NO ACE on your dog's chart.
  
- \* **Rimadyl:** This product is an NSAID (part of the aspirin family of medications, Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory medications) and was originally developed for humans. However too many problems showed when trials were done. There were too many bad reactions (up to and including death) that would have resulted in lawsuits for the manufacturer. Therefore it was offered as an animal drug as animals do not file lawsuits. We recommend telling your vet to write NO RIMADYL on your dog's chart. Instead request an NSAID with fewer bad reactions such as Metacam, Previcox, or Duramax. If you must use any NSAID DO follow your vet directions as these ARE dangerous drugs. For pain only, without anti-inflammatory properties, request Tramadol.
  
- \* **Aspirin:** Avoid giving aspirin if at all possible until you get your dog to the vet as not all NSAIDs are compatible with each other. Some can cause problems if mixed with another NSAID of a different type. If giving be sure not to give any mixed with other medications that may be unsafe and consult your vet.  
<http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/top-10-human-medications-that-poison-our-pets.aspx>
  
- \* **Greenies, Corncobs and Cooked Bones** are all very dangerous. Col. Potter has had a Cairn die due to a Greenie being stuck in her throat. The stuck Greenie did not show up on xrays or ultrasound therefore the vet didn't know what was wrong. The Cairn died from her esophagus being shredded by the Greenie that could not go down or come up. Heartbreaking! Corncobs and cooked bones are very attractive trash and if eaten can cause blocked or punctured intestines. One of our Cairns was adopted to a lovely family. The day of the adoption their teenage son gave the dog the bones from his fried chicken dinner. The dog did not make it.
  
- \* **Chocolate, Raisins and the Pits** are all very dangerous. Everyone should know by now that chocolate is poisonous to pets as are raisins/grapes which can cause irreversible kidney damage. But the seeds/stone/pits of lots of fruit is also poisonous (cyanide) such as:  
Apple seeds – black seeds inside core pocket (pips)  
Apricot kernels – the kernel inside the pit is poisonous  
Cherries – the stone  
Nectarine pits – kernel inside the pit  
Peach pits – kernel inside the pit  
Plums – the kernel inside the pit
  
- \* **Antifreeze:** Don't ever forget that antifreeze puddles are generally sweet smelling and appealing to pets. I believe there is now 'one' type of antifreeze that has chemicals added to make it bitter and unappealing rather than sweet, appealing, and deadly. How do you know which type your neighbors are using?

- \* **Xylitol:** This is found in some sugar-free candy and gum. It may also be found in chewable medications, vitamins, supplements or toothpaste. It is deadly to your pets. Always check the ingredient list for this additive before giving anything to your Cairn. If you have any gum with this ingredient in your purse keep it safely away from your snoopy little Cairn.
- \* **Bags:** Cairns are curious. They're 'always' interested in food. Hmmmm, furthermore they're inquisitive, nosy, prying, and just plain snoopy. That makes any bags which may have had even a single piece of cereal in them most interesting. Please be very careful about bags of all kinds from plastic grocery bags to cereal bags, chip or other snack bags, cookie bags, dog food or treat bags. These bags may be made of plastic, cellophane, foil-coated plastic film, etc. Dogs have died with their heads stuck in bags. We know of a beloved Cairn found dead at home with his precious head stuck in a chip bag that was almost empty. We know of a Cairn that almost made it to rescue except that he got his head stuck in a dog food bag the night before. We grieve for that hungry little dog who was so close to a good life.
- \* **Cocoa Mulch:** Don't buy this for your yard as it smells like chocolate and dogs will literally eat it...gobble it right up. It has theobromine in it just as chocolate candy does and can also be fatal. This is something to think about when traveling. Watch for your dog's reaction to mulches away from your home.
- \* **Lyme Vaccine:** Our studies have indicated that most vets do not recommend this vaccination. However, if you give it once it MUST be given every year afterwards. If you stop giving this vaccine the dog may get sick with Lyme. Also, giving the Lyme vaccine may cause any of several very serious and severely painful side effects. If these side effects occur from a case of Lyme disease they will go away when the disease has been properly treated. If caused by the vaccine then the side-effects will NEVER go away. In high tick areas the recommendations we follow are testing every six months unless you become suspicious of the dog's health. For excellent information on tick-borne diseases read this web site:

<https://sites.google.com/site/tickbornediseaseindogs/>

This is one lab that will test the tick found on your dog when you send it in, rather than testing the dog. You may want to search your area for a closer lab.

<http://ag.umass.edu/services/tick-borne-disease-diagnostics>

- \* **Retractable Leashes:** We don't recommend these as they definitely teach dogs to pull on the leash, which is not what we want the little heathens to learn. If walking a scared Cairn and the handle is dropped it will be loud and scare the dog causing him/her to bolt and run off in terror. As the dog runs the handle rattles and clatters behind them increasing the terror.
- \* **PERILOUS PENNIES:** Pennies, yes, the coins in your pocket or purse are DEADLY. If you see your Cairn (or any other dog) swallow a penny coin contact your vet and head in to the office or an emergency clinic \*immediately\*. It is only penny coins that are dangerous and only pennies minted after 1982 but reason enough to watch your pennies like a hawk to keep them away from your dogs. Just one can and will kill if you don't take action. A westie died in 2012 from swallowing just one penny.

[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-204\\_162-57581037/dog-fatally-poisoned-by-one-penny/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-204_162-57581037/dog-fatally-poisoned-by-one-penny/)

<http://servicedogcentral.org/forum/index.php?topic=19802.0>

- \* **Bad, Bad Batteries:** Batteries of all shapes and sizes are in many everyday objects. We know to keep batteries out of reach of pets, but what about the TV remote, cell phone, toys, or other small chewable items (such as hearing aids....expensive hearing aids) that require batteries? Batteries contain acidic or alkaline chemicals, heavy metals, and the lithium (button) batteries may even pass an electric current to damage or kill tissue. Learn about the types of batteries, how they cause problems, and what to do if you suspect your pet ate one.

<http://vetmedicine.about.com/od/toxicology/f/Beware-Of-Batteries.htm>

- \* **Murderous Magnets:** Ingestion of a single magnet is not likely to cause a problem. But ingestion of more than one magnet, or a magnet and another metal object, can cause serious problems. If these foreign bodies stick to each other through the intestinal walls of different intestinal segments, an obstruction can result. Even more serious is the potential for perforation. The pressure caused by two magnets, or a magnet and another metal foreign body sticking together, cuts off the blood supply to the intestine and the results can be deadly.

<http://www.webmd.com/parenting/baby/news/20041026/swallowed-magnets-are-dangerous>

- \* **Grievous Glue:** A little lick of glue is not inherently poisonous but it's what that glue may do inside your dog that may cause BIG problems. The most common problem associated with super glue ingestion is mild oral irritation. However, too much of anything is dangerous because you can't see what is going on inside the dog. There are several types of glue including white glue, super glue and expandable glues. The most toxic of these glues are the expandable glues, such as Gorilla Glue.

<http://www.petplace.com/dogs/polyurethane-glue-toxicity/page1.aspx>

This next link contains some xrays to show what happens when an expandable glue is ingested:

<http://vetmedicine.about.com/od/toxicology/qt/GorillaGlue.htm>