

# Fall 2020

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## Holiday Food and Pet Safety

With holiday cooking right around the corner, it might seem tempting to share table scraps with your pet. Be mindful of the dangers this can cause.



Anything seasoned with onions is an absolute no. Onions, as well as raisins, and grapes are toxic to pets, especially dogs.



With its fatty skin and seasonings, Turkey can cause havoc with your pet's digestive system, causing vomiting, diarrhea, and pancreatitis. Avoid adding Turkey drippings or gravy to pet food. Not only is gravy high in fat, but it's typically seasoned with garlic and onion, which is toxic to dogs.



Xylitol, a sugar substitute found in sugar-free gum, candy, baked goods, desserts, and toothpaste, can cause vomiting, seizures, and even liver failure.



Chocolate contains theobromine, a caffeine-like substance that can cause vomiting, diarrhea to heart arrhythmias, tremors, and seizures. The plastic and foil packaging can also be dangerous with the potential of causing blockage or obstruction.

[CaliforniaVeterinarySpecialists.com](http://CaliforniaVeterinarySpecialists.com)

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# California Veterinary Specialists



## Fall 2020

Welcome to **The Scoop** –  
a newsletter to inform you of the  
latest news and offerings from  
VCA California Veterinary Specialists.

## Pets & Smoke

We're still not in the clear from wildfires with California's Fall Santa Ana Fire season and its dry, hot winds.

Smoke from wildfires can be hazardous for pets, especially those with cardiovascular or respiratory disease. Brachiocephalic breeds those with short noses and flat faces such as Pugs, Shih Tzus, Boston Terriers, Pekinese, Bulldogs, and Persian, Himalayan, and Burmese cats already susceptible to breathing issues are far more at risk from smoke and poor air quality.



## Tips to Keep Pets Safe

Keep pets indoors, and windows shut only allowing brief outside bathroom breaks

If possible, invest in a HEPA air purifier and or new HEPA filters for central air conditioners to improve the air quality in the house

Only exercise pets when the air quality has improved and high temperatures have subsided

## Contact Your Veterinarian If Your Pet Exhibits Any Of These Symptoms

- Difficulty breathing, open mouth breathing, and increased noise when breathing
- Coughing or gagging
- Eye Irritation and excessive watering
- Nasal discharge
- Inflammation of throat or mouth
- Rapid breathing
- Fatigue or weakness
- Disorientation or stumbling
- Reduced appetite and thirst

## Pet Cancer Awareness



When faced with the diagnosis of cancer in a beloved pet, the options can be overwhelming. Treatment options can vary depending on the type of cancer, its severity, location, and the pet's age. Radiation therapy has proven to be a successful tool for fighting cancer as it damages the DNA of cancer cells stopping its growth and spread. Utilizing the TrueBeam, an advanced medical linear accelerator, a combination of 2D, 3D, and 4D imaging allows for the precise delivery of high-dose cancer treatments. Learn more about our Radiation Oncology services as well as take a virtual tour of our Carlsbad hospital and its Radiation Oncology Suite housing the most advanced TrueBeam RadioTherapy System available on the west coast. In the video tour, our radiation oncology supervisor also explains the process for patients undergoing TrueBeam treatment.



Take a virtual tour by scanning the QR code



or visit our website:  
<https://bit.ly/RadOncTour>

## Meet Two of Our Registered Veterinary Technicians



We appreciate our veterinary technicians who work tirelessly, providing patients with compassionate special care from the heart. Whether monitoring patient progress, providing nursing care, or communicating with pet owners, our technicians have an integral role in the round the clock, seven days a week, veterinary care we provide. This year, it's been especially challenging due to the pandemic with the necessary safety protocols put in place to protect both clients and staff. We appreciate the work they do day in and day out.

### In Ontario:

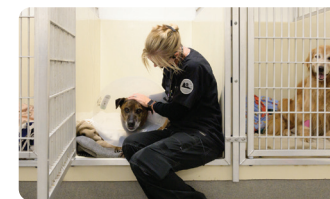


#### **Amber, RVT, VTS (ECC)**

*Supervisor -  
Emergency/  
Critical Care*

*"Animals have always been a love of mine since I was a little girl"*

### In Carlsbad:



#### **Sandy, RVT, VTS (ECC)**

*Technician -  
Emergency/  
Critical Care*

*"My work is so rewarding"*



Scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit our website via the link: <http://bit.ly/SuperVetTechs>

to learn more about two of our registered veterinary technicians and why they chose the work they do.