



MONTHLY MIRACLES

Evie, a six-year-old Dalmatian, was rushed to our Barnsley surgery when she became ill after guzzling down a potentially life-threatening amount of chocolate.

She had been discovered by her owners, Kirsty and Oliver Burkitt, at their home in Calabria Grove, Barnsley, surrounded by the remnants of five Easter eggs.

In cases such as this it is vital that owners seek treatment quickly. If a dog gets to a vet in time it can be made to vomit and also be given activated charcoal to absorb any toxin left in the digestive system.



Evie has now made a good recovery.

This will help to prevent the life-threatening fits which are very common after dogs eat chocolate. Chocolate contains theobromine, which in large doses will affect the central nervous system and the heart of a dog. Dogs metabolise theobromine much more slowly than humans and that is why it is so dangerous to them. Some dog owners do not realise how poisonous chocolate is and we have even come across cases where they have been feeding it to their dog as a treat.

Another serious danger is the fat and sugar in many chocolate treats – these can sometimes trigger life-threatening pancreatitis.

Kirsty Burkitt said: “We normally dog-proof the kitchen before we leave the house but on this occasion we’d left a cardboard box containing Easter eggs on the kitchen table. Evie must have reached up and pulled the box to the floor to get to the chocolate. When we saw her shaking and being sick we knew we had to act quickly. Abbey Vets told us to get her straight in, even though it was during the evening. After her treatment, she was kept in overnight for observation but was well enough to come home the next day.”

“She is now back to her normal boisterous self, but hopefully her ordeal will serve as a warning to other dog owners to keep chocolate well out of harms way.”