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Jerky Toxicity

Linden Craig
linden@utk.edu

Heather Lollar

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Jerky Treat Toxicity

Linden Craig and Heather Lollar

An 8 year old spayed female Chihuahua was presented for anorexia and vomiting. Bloodwork revealed elevated alkaline phosphatase, bilirubin, blood urea nitrogen, creatinine, and phosphorus. The patient progressed to anuric renal failure and died. The body was submitted to University of Tennessee for necropsy with Leptospirosis as the primary concern. Microscopic findings in the kidney were suggestive of Fanconi-like syndrome. Review of the antemortem urinalysis and bloodwork revealed glucosuria without hyperglycemia. The owner confirmed that the dog had ingested Milo's Kitchen chicken jerky treats. The case was reported to the FDA (which also requested frozen samples of liver and kidney). There is currently no confirmatory test for jerky treat toxicity; the toxic principle is unknown.

Summary points:

- Glucosuria with normal blood glucose is the clinical hallmark of this condition
- Many affected dogs have toxic liver damage as well as renal failure
- There is no test to detect the toxin (which is still unknown)
- Suspected cases should be reported to the FDA
- Small breed dogs are most commonly affected
- Necropsy is valuable tool