

# St Bernards Buzz



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[www.stbernardsvet.com.au](http://www.stbernardsvet.com.au)

## Hello from Helen's Desk!!!

Hello to all the amazing clients and fur babies at St Bernard's Road Veterinary Clinic.

I have the awesome opportunity of taking over from Lara as Practice Manager, so please say g'day next time you drop in.

I have had the pleasure of working with Dr Jenni Trewren at RivaPetz Pet Care in Berri for the last six years and I'm looking forward making new friends over the coming years. I come from the Riverland and have four, two legged children and three, four legged fur babies (two Labrador x Kelpies and one tortoiseshell cat).



I'm looking forward to the new experiences of living in the big smoke. Please feel free to give me a call if I can help in anyway



## ANNUAL EASTER BUNNY ALERT

As the Easter Bunny gears up to make his deliveries, it is our job to remind you keep ALL chocolate out of paw's reach.

Our canine friends are specifically designed to seek out any morsel of chocolate - big or small, wrapped or unwrapped! The problem is, chocolate contains a derivative of caffeine called theobromine and dogs have trouble digesting this ingredient.

Scarily, theobromine ingestion can be fatal in some dogs.

Watch out for: Hyperactivity; Tremors; panting and a racing heart; Vomiting and diarrhoea; Seizures.

As a general rule, the darker the chocolate, the more toxic it is - but if your dog finds your Easter egg stash, it's best to call us immediately as ANY amount of ANY type of chocolate (white and milk included) can cause a problem.

In most cases, if we are able to make your dog vomit we can prevent any nasty follow on effects.

Don't forget: sultanas and raisins can cause acute kidney failure in dogs so you'll also need to keep hot cross buns off their menu this Easter.

*If you are worried about your pet this Easter you should ask us for advice.*

## Top tips for preventing rat bait toxicity!

Sadly, we often see pets that have eaten rat bait. This can be extremely upsetting especially when ingestion can often be prevented.

**Here are our top tips for prevention rat bait toxicity:**

1. The first, and probably most obvious, is **do not have rodenticide products on your property**. And what about your neighbour's place? If you've moved to a new property, have you thoroughly checked it is safe?
2. Ensure that **places you visit with your pet (friend's houses, holiday rentals) are rat bait free**. That means always check for rat bait before letting your pet loose in a new environment.
3. If you must have rat bait, please **store packets of these poisons in a secure place** away from animals and children. Don't forget that your pet may actively seek out rat bait - dogs have knack for getting under the house and cats love to explore the ceiling.  
**We are always here to offer advice and help - phone us if you are worried.**

The poison used to kill rats and mice interferes with blood clotting. These products are just as toxic to dogs and cats, and alarmingly your pets may even seek these poisons out.

### **What to do if your pet finds rat bait:**

If you know that your pet has eaten rat bait, have them checked a vet as soon as possible. If seen immediately, your pet can be made to vomit which reduces toxin absorption. Sometimes blood tests, or administration of an antidote may be necessary.

If your pet is showing signs of bleeding, they may require supportive care, transfusion of blood products and the antidote.

Clinical signs are usually present anywhere from 1 to 7 days after ingestion (depending on type and amount of poison ingested).

### **How to know if your pet has eaten rat bait:**

Your pet may be quiet or lethargic

A cough or breathing problems (if they bleed into the lungs)  
They may collapse  
Sometimes there will be visible signs of bleeding (in urine, nose bleeds)

**If you think your pet might have eaten rat bait, please phone us immediately for advice.**