

Treats prove hard to digest

Lindsay McReynolds
Advertising Manager

Junior Josh Miley said he feeds both his chow mix and black lab probably three to four dog treats per day.

What he might not know, however, is that although many types of dog treats can provide a quick reward, they also can lead to dangerous and sometimes fatal digestion problems.

Dr. Keith Conklin, a veterinarian at Parkview Animal Hospital in Kirksville, said certain veggie treats are horrible for a dog's digestion.

He said he read an article in a journal where one practice had X-rayed a dog that came in lethargic, with a tense abdomen and refused to eat. The vet discovered the dog had intestinal blockage.

"They ended up taking two vegetable chewies out of the stomach and one out of the lower small intestine," Conklin said. "They simply never digested."

Conklin said many lawsuits were filed against the Greenie Company that produces a green, toothbrush-shaped veggie treat.

"Not only are they not very digestible, but they are real bad about not absorbing enough fluids that disintegrate, and they block the intestinal tract," Conklin said. "Then you have to go in and surgically remove them."

Conklin said rawhide chewies also have been a problem for many years.

"The dogs that [they] generally cause the problem in is the dog that doesn't chew them up good enough," Conklin said. "... They don't disintegrate very well either, and if a dog swallows too big a chunk of it, he's got a real good chance of getting intestinal blockage from it."

Conklin said that if someone does decide to give rawhide treats to their dog, they should do so only after the dog is at least six months old.

"Personally, I'm not a fan of them," Conklin said. "I wouldn't use them."

Conklin said he doesn't know how healthful most dog treats such as cow bones and pig ears are.

"There is actually more of those things on the market than I even know about," Conklin said.

Conklin said how much or what kind of dog treat won't determine how harmful they can be to dogs.

"I think the whole process boils down to the fact, do they chew them up enough before they swallow them," Conklin said. "Because if they don't, then it is a problem."

Conklin said dogs that have a tendency to eat their treats quickly are more prone to having digestive problems.

"If you have a dog with a ravenous appetite, and it's a new thing to him, and he just snarfs it down, then that's the dog that you got the real problem with intestinal blockage on," Conklin said.

Junior Berkeley Arnold, who has a German shorthaired pointer named Riley, said she and her roommates give Riley beef-hide treats as an extra snack every so often.

"I would say, not even like one a day," Arnold said. "Probably just a couple a week."

Conklin said he thinks two treats a day is enough.

"I wouldn't get used to feeding him over a couple a day," Conklin said.



Courtney Robbins/Index

Sophomore Molly Fowler plays with her puppy Leila at her home Wednesday. Fowler said she splits up her dog treats into small pieces to feed her puppy.

Conklin said he personally wouldn't feed his dog the green chewies, the veggies and the rawhides.

Sophomore Molly Fowler is the owner of a 3-month-old Oripei puppy named Leila.

Fowler said she and her boyfriend usually take one treat and split it up into little pieces. She

said she thinks the size of her dog determines how often she should feed Leila treats.

"They are pretty big, so they are too big for her to eat all at once anyway," Fowler said.

Conklin said dog owners, especially new dog owners who don't know how much to feed their dog yet, should really know what the

limit is for feeding their dog treats.

"Two treats, as far as I'm concerned, is enough, and I don't care what type of treat you feed them," Conklin said. "They've all got calories in them, and if you get these people that feed four, six, eight, 10 treats a day then the dog's going to get fat ... That's the best advice that I can give you."

Student accepts interim coordinator spot

Sadye Scott-Hainchek
Assistant Head Copy Editor

Senior Jenny Glass not only switched classes at the beginning of the semester, but also job titles.

While still enrolled at Truman, Glass was appointed interim international admissions coordinator until the International Student Affairs Office hires a replacement for Matt Marble, who left in January.

Glass, formerly a student worker and the programming team chairwoman, said her contract officially began the last week of January.

Melanee Crist, assistant director for international education, said the ISO appointed a student because of the unique situation.

Marble had to leave by the end of

January for a new job, and Crist had broken her leg. Garry Gordon, vice president for academic affairs, and Patrick Leaque, director of the Center for International Education, agreed the ISO needed a replacement, but it didn't have time to search for a full-time coordinator, Crist said.

When she learned they could appoint an interim coordinator, Crist said, she immediately thought of Glass, who has worked at the ISO for five years.

"I know that [Glass] is extremely capable and has a real interest in international education and works very well with international students," she said. "She has supported us in several crisis situations, so I felt like her knowledge of the office and the way it worked would make it very easy for her to transition to that."

Junior Daniel Goering, assistant international admissions coordinator, said he sees advantages in appointing a student in general as well as Glass specifically.

"She's in tune," he said. "She's more aware of the current procedures of becoming a student, and she's also aware of the cultural, academic and social opportunities here on the Truman campus."

Sophomore Erin Zevely, an admissions assistant at the ISO, also said a student can bring certain qualities an outsider wouldn't.

"It's easier to relate to them, and they're more understanding about schedules," she said. "... I think the advantage to students is she's good at multi-tasking already. She's used to doing it at school."

Crist said the entire ISO benefits from appointing someone from within.

"I think it's a win-win situation," she said. "[Glass] gets to explore the field of international education as a possible career, and the student staff have someone to depend on, and the students get the services they need."

Glass said she found out Marble was leaving when Crist called her as she was driving back to Truman shortly before the semester began.

In the same call, Crist asked Glass if she were interested.

She took some time to think about it and see how it would impact her student loans and insurance, she said.

Glass said she ultimately accepted because it was an invaluable opportunity.

"Working with the international students has been something I've really enjoyed doing during college, and I've thought about doing it in the future," she said.

Marble was available to train Glass during the first week of classes, and now, she works 40 hours per week while taking only one class, she said.

Although she helps international students through the application process and reviews their applications with the admissions committee, Glass hasn't taken over completely for Marble, she said.

"Since I'm just here for a semester, I don't have responsibilities like helping with registration and immigration and orientation," she said.

Crist said the ISO will begin reviewing applications for a full-time coordinator after spring break.

She said she hopes to hire someone by May 1 so the ISO can train the new coordinator while Glass still has the position.




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