



September 2010

Beckett & Associates Veterinary Services, LLC Links

[About Us](#)

[Meet The Doctors](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Health & Grooming](#)



Beckett & Associates Announcements

Complimentary Reminders ... The way you want them!

Interested in receiving your pets' vaccine & exam reminders via email, text message or mail? Please let our office know which you prefer by [emailing](#) us or calling our office!



Beckett & Associates Veterinary Services, LLC online pet store allows you to buy all your pet supplies instantly and at your own convenience. We offer everything from pet health products, to toys and treats.

No time to go to the pet store, that's okay [Order Online](#) and have your pet supplies delivered to your home.

**Contact
Beckett & Associates
Veterinary
Services, LLC**

860-659-0848
1269 Main St

Raising Goats: The Dangers of Poisonous Plants

With the hot, humid and dry weather of summer still upon us, pastures all around New England are dry and grasses are burnt. Goats are just one of the many species we raise in New England on summer pasture. As the weeds grow tall and the grasses die off, animals become enticed by the green invaders. Many factors can contribute to plant poisoning including: starvation, accidental eating and changes in browsing habits of animals. Of these factors, starvation is the most common reason.

Most woodland and low-lying pastures contain many species of poisonous plants. Certain plants may be accidentally eaten by animals as they graze. Some animals on good feed may become bored with the same regular diet and decide to sample unpalatable weeds or ornamental plants growing along fences or ponds. Goats and cattle are known for "browsing" even when their diets are excellent.

There are many factors that contribute to the severity of poisoning which occurs when an animal ingests a toxic plant. The level of moisture in the plant, general health of the animal prior to ingestion of the plant, amount of the plant consumed and the animal's age and size all play an important role in determining the clinical outcome.

To avoid an accidental poisoning, clear pastures of storm debris, excessive weeds and shrubs. Provide good quality hay and grain to animals when pasture is lean. A free choice mineral supplement and fresh water should always be available.

Some Common Toxic Plants:

Wild Cherries, Peaches, Plums, Sorghums, Common Milk Weed, Horse Nettle, Mountain Laurel, Water Hemlock, Poison Hemlock, Pokeweed, Hellebore, Rhodoendron, Black Nightshade, Sudan grass, Many Ornamental plants/shrubs



Glastonbury, CT 06033

Office Hours

Monday - Friday:
7:30 a.m.- 6 p.m.

Saturday:
8:30 a.m.- 1 p.m.

24-hour Large Animal
Emergency Coverage

Specials

Buy a 6 month supply
of Frontline and receive
another dose free!

When you purchase a 6
month supply of
Advantix and a
grooming glove you
will receive another
dose
for free,
while supplies last



Pet Angels provides
animal lovers a direct
link to local rescues in
Connecticut. Our Pet
Lost & Found allows
users to search for
their lost pet or post a
found animal. Visitors
can also put up their
animals for adoption.

Pet Angels was created
by Beckett and
Associates Veterinary
Services, LLC and is a
free service to those
looking to adopt or
rescue their next – or
first – pet.

Visit [Pet Angels](#) to find
out more

This list is not complete. Please consult your local agricultural extension office for common plants in your area.

Buddy's Success Story "The Weigh He Was"

Article by Jocelyn Otte

Buddy, a now healthy 8 year old Lab Mix, struggled with being overweight most of his life. His obesity eventually resulted in the development of osteoarthritis.

Buddy's Biography:

Origin: West Hartford Dog Pound; Age 5 months. Neutered and vaccinated at 6 months

Exercise:

Age 3: Buddy began to slow down and gained weight

Ages 4 – 7: He became less & less active and no longer tolerated hiking in the woods or swimming.

By age 7: Buddy's weight reached 148 lbs. Many gastroenterological problems including diarrhea and vomiting, poor appetite (for dog food) began.

Exercise History: When Buddy was younger and seemed to have more energy, he had a busy schedule. Spring, summer and fall Buddy hiked for 1 - 3 hours through the woods in morning and went swimming at Nod Brook Pond for another 1-2 hours three times per week. He eventually slowed down so that his hikes were only 1-2 hours a day, but he was still hiking more then most dogs.

Diet History: Buddy's diet originally consisted of various high quality commercial brands of dry dog food. When Buddy's family was preparing a meal for themselves, he will sit attentively near the counter ready to catch any fallen morsel accidentally dropped. Regardless of what falls, raw onion, potato, green bean, etc Buddy grabs it instantly. Dominic and his family have been very active with Buddy in hiking over the years, but lately he had not wanted to walk well, was having difficulty with stairs and his energy level had decreased. Despite exercise and diet change, Buddy just could not shed the pounds. His family had decided to change his diet to a high protein, low carbohydrate "light" formula. His homemade diet consisted of raw ground chicken frames, mixed vegetables and vitamins as one meal per day in evening. After his meal, he goes to the refrigerator door and scratches on it. This is his way of saying that he wants a whole raw carrot for dessert after his meal. Upon receiving the carrot he wags his tail and runs off to a corner of the kitchen where he systematically eats the carrot with loud crunching sounds. During the day he may get a very small snack such as raw vegetables, carrots, squash, string beans etc. Meanwhile, they came across and article about acupuncture. Buddy's family had always taken a natural approach to his lifestyle, and took the initiative to call Beckett and Associates to coordinate a consult.



Buddy 2009 (weighing 134lbs)

Buddy became a patient of Beckett and Associates back in April 2009 and weighed in at 134 pounds, about 54 pounds overweight. Initially, his appointment was for a consult on the arthritis in his back legs, lethargy and obesity. His referring Veterinarian, a homeopathic doctor had also recommended that he try acupuncture with Dr. Beckett.

The initial visit included a discussion about Buddy's family's concerns and goals, followed by a combination of Eastern and Western examinations performed by Dr. Beckett in order to isolate the area of concern and to fulfill the family's request in taking a natural approach to the situation. A general blood test was performed to ensure that Buddy's problems were not stemming from an internal organ malfunction. It was determined that Buddy had an abnormally low thyroid level and would need to be supplemented with regular medication. He was also a candidate for acupuncture.

After Buddy's first acupuncture session, a slight improvement was observed in his level of physical activity. The following day he was taken on a back trail in the West Hartford Reservoir. The trail loop that they took usually took about 20 - 25 minutes to walk at a moderate pace. Buddy moved a bit faster initially, stopping to sniff here and there. However, as they reached the midpoint of the loop he began to slow down. The walk lasted about one hour. When they returned home he seemed alert but rested the remainder of the day. The next day he was reluctant to walk further than half a block. However, he seemed alert and his energy level was still at a higher than before his first treatment.

As time has passed the slight increase in Buddy's energy level from the first acupuncture treatment appeared to have worn off and lethargy started to set in once again. Buddy's owners continued to give him the herbal formula that was prescribed as well as some other additional herbal therapies. With the advent of hot weather Buddy's appetite decreased to the point that he showed no interest in food. This, however, was short lived as Buddy enjoyed a cooked egg and a carrot the next day. Buddy's family understood that due to the sluggish thyroid, it would take some time to restore homeostasis through proper Western medication that was proven at the time to be optimal for Buddy. Eastern treatment for the condition would take much longer to achieve or meet therapeutic levels in Buddy's system and time was an important factor. Buddy and his family decided that they would continue with the approach planned by Dr. Beckett.

In less than 1 year, with determination and compliance, Buddy was able to achieve, in our opinion, a new healthy life. Now, a slim, physically fit, Buddy weighs in at 74lbs and is doing very well. Buddy now has energy to walk long distances, chases a ball when let loose in an open field and is playful and ready to go (something he could not do when he was grossly over weight). He continues to take supplements to support his thyroid level and no longer requires acupuncture treatments.



Buddy 2010 (a slim 74lbs)

"Thanks to Dr. Beckett we have a rejuvenated Buddy back with us!" –Buddy's Family

[E-mail Marketing provided by WebDuck Designs](#)



This e-mail was sent by Beckett & Associates Veterinary Services, LLC located at 1269 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033 (USA). You are receiving this e-mail because of your business relationship with Beckett & Associates and/or you contacted Beckett & Associates through our web site. If you would not like to receive further e-mails, please [click here](#) or reply to this e-mail with "unsubscribe" in the Subject line.