

No Kush Clouds for Pet Pals

Kush, weed, dab, dank, loud, hash, joint, blunt, pot and the infamous Mary Jane are just a few of the common nicknames for cannabis/marijuana.



Dr. Jasmine Shanelle Streeter
Veterinarian

Cannabis is known throughout the world for its psychoactive and medicinal purposes. In the last few years, cannabis has become a common topic of discussion for rappers, politicians, medical doctors and yes, even veterinarians.

With the sweeping recreational legalization of marijuana throughout the country, it is becoming more and more common for household pets to become the victims of cannabis induced toxicity.

Marijuana's popularity in Oregon has grown by leaps and bounds with its recent recreational legalization on July 1, 2015. According to the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA), "Pets may become poisoned by marijuana through inhalation of smoke, ingestion of the plant, or products containing marijuana or hash."

Lollipops, brownies, cupcakes and even butter are made containing the potent psychoactive ingredient Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) that gives users the "trippy high" they seek. Other cannabinoids such as cannabidiol (CBD) and cannabitol (CBN) carry the medicinal effects of the plant that are commonly prescribed for cancer or glaucoma patients.

Many owners do not intentionally expose their pets to marijuana. Animals may passively inhale the billowing clouds while sitting next to their owners on the couch or ingest edibles while breaking into the trash. Dogs, cats, and even pot-bellied pigs have a heightened sense of smell, which may increase their risk of exposure. Dogs, for example, have 40 times more olfactory receptors than humans, which places

their nostrils light years ahead of ours at smelling pretty much anything.

Cannabis toxicity in pets can vary in severity depending on the concentration and/or amount ingested. Although it is rare for animals to ingest or inhale enough marijuana to be fatal, caution should be taken if your pet has been exposed to the plant or its products.

According to the OVMA, symptoms of marijuana poisoning generally occur within 30-60 minutes of contact. Symptoms include drowsiness, lack of coordination, glassy eyes, vomiting, seizures or even coma.

Dogs may exhibit urinary incontinence, agitation or excitement. Not sure about you, but the thought of an overly high dog who is agitated, excited, vomiting and peeing on my floor all at the same time is not a risk I'm willing to take.

To protect your pet from a potential marijuana exposure, do not smoke in the proximity of your pet. Do not directly blow smoke into your pets face or allow them to ingest plants or foods containing marijuana. Place food or plants in a sealable container or locked area where pets cannot gain access.

Pets that have been exposed to marijuana should seek veterinary care promptly to determine the best treatment for that animal.

I always tell my clients, "According to Oregon law, it is legal for you to get high as a kite — just don't let your pets take flight."

—Dr. Jasmine

Veterinarian Dr. Jasmine Streeter's column will appear in The Skanner the first Wednesday of every month. Send your pet care questions to drjasmine@theskanner.com.

World News Briefs

Trump's Rivals Try to Stop His Momentum

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Donald Trump's easy victories in Michigan, Mississippi and Hawaii left his rivals with shrinking opportunities to slow his momentum in the Republican primaries and little indication that a flurry of intense efforts to undermine his credibility are pushing voters away from the brash billionaire.

Democrat Bernie Sanders surprised front-runner Hillary Clinton in Michigan, a victory that breathed new life into his White House bid and forecast a long Democratic contest. But Clinton, who won Mississippi, padded her delegate lead and is now halfway to the number needed to clinch the nomination.

Clinton glossed over her contest with Sanders as she addressed supporters, choosing instead to focus her attention on Republi-

cans and the general election.

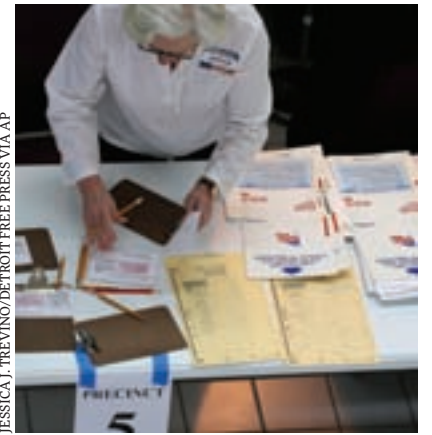
"We are better than what we are being offered by the Republicans," she declared.

Trump entered Tuesday's contests facing questions about his durability and ended the night with a pair of convincing victories. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz added a win in Idaho, bolstering his case that he's the only candidate who can beat Trump with some regularity.

Media Run Photos of Possible Warhead

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea caused a new stir Wednesday by publicizing a purported mock-up of a key part of a nuclear warhead, with leader Kim Jong Un saying his country has developed miniaturized atomic bombs that can be placed on missiles.

The North's Rodong Simmun



JESSICA J. TRIVINO/DETROIT FREE PRESS VIA AP

An Allen Park City Hall polling worker readies ballots for residents to vote in the Michigan primary at the Allen Park City Hall on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, in Allen Park, Mich. Presidential candidates in both parties were looking to Michigan on Tuesday for one of the largest delegate hauls in the bruising nominating contests.

newspaper carried photos on its front page showing Kim and nuclear scientists standing beside what outside analysts say appears to be a model warhead part — a small, silverish globe with a ballistic missile or a model ballistic missile in the background.

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