

Pets' Appetite for Oddities Adds Up to Millions in Treatment Costs

Veterinary Pet Insurance Co. policyholders spent nearly \$5.2 million treating pets that ingested foreign objects from January through November 2011, VPI reported.

The Brea, Calif., pet insurance company received more than 6,500 foreign-object ingestion claims during that period. Surgery to remove foreign object cost an average of \$1,472, and surgery to remove foreign objects from the intestine cost an average of \$1,910.

Notable items that dogs and cats ingested through November include:

About 100 rocks	Hot chili peppers	Tent stake
Box of razor blades	Dirty diaper	Staples
Foot-long metal hanger	Human feces	Deer antlers
Cholla cactus	Fish hook and line	Dental floss
130 fish oil capsules	Jellyfish	Wedding ring
Chopsticks	Makeup sponge	Glue
14 hair bands	Dental retainer	Cork
Cinnamon-scented pine cone	Marijuana cookie	Battery
15 Vanilla votive candles	Pennies and thumb tacks	Wires
Clothing and rat poison	Hemorrhoid suppositories	Soap
Two baby bottle nipples	Package of fluorescent light bulbs	Sweatshirt
Three sewing needles	Ribbons and wrapping paper	Rosebush
Entire tube of dog toothpaste	Burrito wrapped in foil	Head of stuffed animal
Artificial finger nails	The corner of a bed	Long leather lace
Two plastic baggies and a bottle cap	Dead porcupine	Hard plastic pieces
62 Vitamin D soft gels	Rat (swallowed whole)	Aluminum can
Glass ornament	Pepper spray	Two plastic eyeballs
5-inch skewer	Pillowcase	a bunch of broccoli stems
Golf ball skin	Lobster shell	Five pounds of trash
Cell phone case	Mothballs	Scrub brush
G.I. Joe action figure	Poison ivy	Adhesive bandage

Pets that ate these items made full recoveries and owners received insurance reimbursements for eligible expenses.