

## **Windsor Animal Hospital**

### **MOLDY WALNUT POISONING**

Those walnuts lying on the ground from your walnut tree may be a health threat to your dog. After a rain the walnuts become infected with a mold that produces a toxin. Many dogs chew on and eat the whole walnut, including the shell, thus ingesting mold and its toxin. This toxin can cause your animal to become very ill, seizure, and die if not treated.

Signs of walnut poisoning:

Vomiting (You may see walnuts in the vomitus.)

Trembling, shaking, drooling, incoordination, and seizures.

If you suspect this poisoning do not delay in getting medical care for your dog. Left untreated, this can be fatal. Treatment by *Windsor Animal Hospital* may include anesthesia to control the seizures, pumping the stomach to remove any remaining toxin, antibiotics to protect the lungs from bacterial pneumonia, intravenous fluids, and hospitalization for 12 to 24 hours. As the dog awakens from the anesthesia, medication is given to help counteract the toxin.

With proper treatment, chances for complete recovery are excellent. The severity of the signs and symptoms depends on the amount of toxin ingested. The best course is prevention. Keep the walnuts picked up, and discourage your dog from chewing on them.