



'Ruby' - Burrawang seed toxicity

In the last few weeks we have had three dogs brought in with burrawang seed toxicity, including little Ruby above. Burrawang seeds are very toxic and can be fatal (1-2 seeds is enough to kill a medium sized dog). All three dogs presented with mild gastrointestinal signs and are well on the way to recovery.

Ruby was lethargic, trembling and vomiting profusely for over an hour. Her owner had seen her chewing a burrawang seed earlier that afternoon. Ruby was given an anti emetic (to stop the vomiting), charcoal and placed on iv fluids overnight.

By the next morning Ruby was full of beans, the trembling and vomiting had ceased and she readily ate a small bland meal. Ruby's blood tests showed that her liver reading was mildly high although subsequent testing a couple of weeks later shows that this is slowly improving.

The Burrawang (*Macrozamia communis*) grows in open forests along the coast from Armidale to Bega and seed cones are formed after fire. The entire plant is toxic, especially the seeds.

Signs of toxicity - your dog may show all or only some of the following

Gastrointestinal:

- Vomiting and diarrhoea (both may be bloody)

- Increased thirst

- anorexia

- constipation

- hyper-salivation

- abdominal tenderness

Cardiovascular:

- abnormal blood clotting,

- bruising

Nervous system:

- Seizures

- lethargy

- weakness

- ataxia

Liver damage

If you see your dog eating the burrawang seeds - remove any plant remaining in your dog's mouth and gently rinse with water - contact your vet.



Burrawang seeds - photo by David Houlder