

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2019

## **King warns dog owners to be vigilant in Memorial Park Township investigating suspicious food being left in and around park**

King Township—in conjunction with York Regional Police—is investigating a series of suspicious events in and around Memorial Park in King City.

Late last week, King Township staff became aware of the actions of a woman in Memorial Park and on Patton Street. The woman has been observed dropping a trail of food along her walk. The food included what appeared to be nuts, raisins and breadcrumbs. The food has been sent to be tested for toxins.

There have been reports by residents of dogs becoming ill after eating unknown foodstuffs in the area, although these cases have yet to be confirmed. There have also been unconfirmed reports of dead wildlife in the area. Out of an abundance of caution King is warning pet owners to be extra vigilant when walking their dogs in the area.

Staff will be placing warning signs at Memorial Park advising people of the issue.

“Our most important priority is keeping animals safe,” said Chris Fasciano, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture. “We’re advising people to keep their dogs on a leash and don’t let them walk alone outside of their view. It only takes a second for a dog to eat something on the ground.”

Under King’s animal control bylaw, dogs must be leashed and not allowed to run at large at all times.

The speed at which toxic substances take effect varies depending on the type and quantity ingested by the animal, but the symptoms of poisoning are relatively easy to recognize:

- neurological concerns (change in behaviour, lethargy/weakness, tremors, loss of coordination, difficulty walking, seizures, coma)
- gastrointestinal concerns (loss of appetite, excessive thirst, drooling, excessive urination, diarrhea, vomiting)

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*Lying in the heart of the Greater Toronto Area, King Township is located within York Region, one of the fastest growing and diverse economies in Canada. More than 60 per cent of the Holland Marsh, also known as Ontario's salad bowl, lies within King Township. Though predominantly rural, most of King Township's 27,000 residents live in the communities of King City, Nobleton and Schomberg. Residents and visitors are drawn to King because of its rural lifestyle, village atmosphere and quality of life.*

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## Continued from previous page

- cardio-respiratory concerns (rapid breathing/panting, rapid heart rate, vocalizing)

If you suspect your dog has eaten something harmful, take them to your veterinarian or emergency clinic immediately.

If you see suspicious activity in or around the park, please contact York Regional Police at 1-866-876-5423.

King Township will provide updates on its website, Twitter and Facebook as the investigation progresses.

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## Media contact

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## Notice

**King warns dog owners to be vigilant in Memorial Park**

**Township investigating suspicious food being left in and around park**

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- Although there have been no confirmed cases of pets being harmed by eating the food, out of an abundance of caution King is warning pet owners to be extra vigilant when walking their dogs in the area.
- Feeding of wildlife, or leaving of food outdoors which may be an attractant to wild or domestic animals, is prohibited with the Township of King.
- All pets must remain on a leash. Always clean up after your pet.
- Please supervise your pets at all times to ensure that they do not ingest anything that may prove harmful to them.
- If you see any suspicious activity, please contact York Regional Police at 1-866-876-5423.

King Township Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

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