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Tuesday, June 24, 2008

### **SPCA warns dog owners of toxic fertilizer**

06/24/2008 01:12 PM

By: Web Staff

SCHENECTADY COUNTY -- Schenectady County SPCA officials are warning dog owners of the potential harm associated with using cocoa bean mulch as fertilizer.

The mulch, made of cocoa bean shells, can be toxic to dogs if eaten in large quantities.

In 2007, the Animal Poison Control Center handled 26 cases of cocoa bean mulch ingestion.

If homeowners do need to use mulch, the SPCA recommends a non-toxic alternative, like shredded pine.