

## What to do if you think your pet has been poisoned

- Call Animal PoisonLine to confirm if any action is needed
- If your pet has vomited, clean it up promptly to prevent your pet(s) or a child from eating it.
- If your pet has skin or fur contamination wipe off the excess material
- Do not try to make your pet vomit. NEVER give salt water.
- If you are advised to take your pet to the practice, take a sample of the poison with you. This could be the packaging, the container or a sample of plant material.



## Emergency advice

**If your pet is already showing signs of poisoning such as collapse, severe tremors or convulsions – take your pet to your vet immediately.**

**If you are unsure if a visit to your vet is necessary, call Animal PoisonLine for advice.**

**01202 509000 (24 hour)**

Charges apply – see website

**[www.animalpoisonline.co.uk](http://www.animalpoisonline.co.uk)**

Contact details for your vet:

Animal  
**POISONLine** 

## Animal PoisonLine

**What to do if you think your pet has been poisoned**



**Advice for owners**

**01202 509000**

**[www.animalpoisonline.co.uk](http://www.animalpoisonline.co.uk)**



Animal PoisonLine is a 24 hour helpline for owners provided by the Veterinary Poisons Information Service (VPIS)



## What is a poison?

A poison is any substance that is capable of causing harm. Poisons may act after they have been eaten, spilled on the skin, splashed into the eye, injected or inhaled.

Pets can become unwell after exposure to human or veterinary medicines, pesticides, plants and fungi, venomous animals, household, DIY or garden products, human foods, cosmetics and toiletries.



## Information needed when calling

- Your pet's details: the breed, age, weight, sex and name.
- What your pet has taken? e.g. the drug or product/brand name.
- How your pet was exposed? e.g. eaten, inhaled and/or on skin.
- The amount taken and how long ago?
- Is it a one-off event or has this happened before?

## Prevention of poisoning

- Store medicines and products in their original containers, **out of sight and out of reach**.
- If you have medicines in your handbag keep it out of reach of pets.
- Clean up spills promptly.
- Keep the lids of dustbins and containers firmly closed to prevent access.
- Never give your pet a human medicine.
- Be aware, some human foods are toxic to animals e.g. chocolate, grapes, raisins and onions.
- Do not allow your pet to lick your hands or skin after applying a cream or ointment - some human skin preparations are extremely toxic to pets.
- Always read the instructions of products and use only as directed.
- Prevent access to areas of the garden where pesticides, such as weed killers and moss killers, or rat/slug baits have been used.

## What is Animal PoisonLine?

Based on the information you provide our vets and scientists will be able to tell you if you need to go to the vets for immediate treatment or whether we can save you the trip. In our experience over half of animals can stay at home. We can also tell you what signs to expect, if any.

Animal PoisonLine is run by the Veterinary Poisons Information Service (VPIS). Please be aware that if your pet does require veterinary attention your vet may charge a fee for calling VPIS to obtain detailed treatment advice.

