Prevention of ibuprofen poisoning

- Never give ibuprofen to your pets.
- If you have ibuprofen in your handbag, do not leave it lying around.
- Do not allow your pet to lick your hands or skin after applying a cream or ointment that contains ibuprofen.
- Pick up any dropped tablets promptly.
- Do not leave any medicines unattended.
- Replace the tops of containers securely after use.
- Store medicines securely out of sight and reach of pets.
- Dispose of unwanted medicines safely (return them to your pharmacy).

What to do if you think your pet has been poisoned

EMERGENCY ADVICE

- **Call Animal PoisonLine on 01202 509000 even if your pet is showing no signs to find out whether a trip to the vet is required.**
- **Remove your pet from the source of poison.**
- **Do not try to make your pet vomit – NEVER give salt water.**
- **Collect the poison and take a sample/ container with you if you are advised to take your pet to the vet practice.**

Animal POISONLine
24hr advice for owners
01202 509000

www.animalpoisonline.co.uk
24 hours a day (charges apply)

VETERINARY POISONS INFORMATION SERVICE

Animal PoisonLine is run by the VPIS, the UK's only animal poison centre, which has provided advice to vets on the management of poisoning in animals for over 25 years.

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IBUPROFEN POISONING IN DOGS AND CATS

What is ibuprofen?

Ibuprofen is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID). It is commonly used in people for the relief of pain and inflammation associated with aches and pains, headache, cramps and for the relief of mild fever.
It is not used in animals.

Sources of ibuprofen

Ibuprofen is available in various forms, including tablets, capsules, syrups, sachets for children, sachets for dissolving in water and drinking and creams for topical pain relief.

Ibuprofen is also available in some products for the symptomatic relief of cold and flu; these products may also contain other drugs.

What are the signs of ibuprofen poisoning?

Dogs are particularly sensitive to the effects of ibuprofen and it can cause effects on the gut and kidneys.

The clinical signs of ibuprofen poisoning can include:

- Vomiting (may be bloody)
- Diarrhoea
- Black, tarry stools
- Abdominal pain
- Lethargy
- Weakness
- Tremor
- Convulsions

what to do if your pet has eaten ibuprofen

- If your pet has eaten ibuprofen – contact Animal PoisonLine immediately.
- If the quantity eaten and your pet's weight are known it will be possible to determine if a toxic dose has been taken.
- If you do need to go to the vet treatment may include intravenous fluid therapy and monitoring of your pet's kidney function.
- Your pet may also be prescribed a drug to control vomiting, and drugs to protect the gut and reduce the risk of ulceration. If ulceration has already occurred, ulcer-healing drugs may be prescribed.

Outcome of ibuprofen poisoning

The prognosis is good if treatment is started promptly as this will help prevent the effects on the gut and kidneys.

Prognosis is more guarded in pets that have pre-existing kidney disease, or are dehydrated.

A massive overdose can result in rapid onset severe clinical effects and a poor outcome.