

Poisoning



Dogs usually eat before they think. They may get under the Christmas tree into the candy box or under the counter in household chemical, slug and snail poison may taste good.

Suspect poisoning if he has trouble breathing, has seizures, has a slow or fast heartbeat, drools or foams at the mouth, has burns around his mouth and lips, or is bleeding from the anus, mouth, or nose. Other symptoms may include being drowsy, unconscious or acting if he is out control. (At least more than normal).

To help your dog you should know how to make him vomit and when it is safe to do so (see the chart below). If you don't know what he has eaten or if it is safe to make him vomit, call the vet immediately. Any animal who has ingested poison should be checked even it you have made him vomit. The best remedy is to keep all harmful substances away from areas where dogs can get to them.

When to See the Vet



Changes in behavior. Your pet may shiver or become anxious. He may lurch or stagger, have seizures or loose consciousness. In some cases he may drool excessively and paw at his mouth.



Breathing problems, like panting or gasping. If your pet has been exposed to carbon monoxide, his lips and gums will turn bright red.



Bleeding. Products used to control mice and other rodents often contain warfarin, a chemical that can cause bleeding from any body opening.



Who to Contact



The [National Animal Poison Control Center](#), a division of the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, is only a phone call away every hour of every day of every week. Center veterinarians and veterinary toxicologists have up-to-the minute information on toxicity levels, antidotes, treatments, and prognosis based on more than 250,000 cases involving pesticides, drugs, plants, metals, and other exposures in pets, livestock, and wildlife. These specialists provide advice to animal owners and confer with veterinarians about poison exposures.

If you suspect your pet has been poisoned, gather the following information and then call the NAPCC: give your name, address, and telephone number; the species, breed, age, sex, and weight of each animal affected; the substance the animal ingested if known; the time that has elapsed since ingestion; and the symptoms the animal is showing.

NAPCC has three telephone numbers for easy access:

-  (900) 680-0000 costs \$20 for the first five minutes and \$2.95 for each additional minute billed to your telephone;
-  (800) 548-2423 and (888) 426-4435 are credit- card-only numbers for \$30 per case. Only Master Card, Visa, American Express, and Discover cards are accepted.

The center also has an animal product safety service for manufacturers of veterinary, agricultural, and chemical products. This service provides a toll-free number to be printed on product labels and literature so that toxicity information and treatment advice are available to purchasers. There is no charge for calls made to the number provided on the product. This service also keeps case records, compiles quarterly reports, and works with manufacturers to increase product safety.

For additional information about the poison control center, contact
ASPCA/NAPCC

1717 South Philo Road
Suite 36; Urbana, IL 61802

or

ASPCA

424 East 92nd Street,
New York, NY 10128-6804;

(212) 876-7700, extension 4656

or

[National Animal Poison Control Center.](#)

When to induce Vomiting

Poisoning requires fast action. Often the best remedy is to get the dog to vomit, which will remove the harmful substance from his system. However, if it a caustic substance like Draino, vomiting will make things worse. Also make sure to identify the poison and get professional help.

Poison	Induce Vomiting	Poison	Induce Vomiting
Antifreeze	Yes	Nail Polish	No
Arsenic	Yes	Paint Thinner	No
Aspirin	Yes	Paintbrush Cleaner	No
Battery Acid	No	Paste (Glue)	No
Bleach	No	Pesticides	see arsenic, strychnine, warfin
Carbolic Acid (Phenol)	No	Phenol (see Carbolic Acid)	
Crayons	Yes	Pine-oil Cleaners	No
Drain Cleaner	No	Plaster	No
Fertilizer	No	Putty	No
Furniture Polish	No	Roach Traps	see insecticides
Glue	No	Shampoo	Yes
Household Cleaners	No	Shoe Polish	Yes
Insecticides (including flea and tick dips)	Yes	Sidewalk Salt	No
Kerosene	No	Slug, Snail Bait	Yes (if bait has organo-phosphate carbonate, induce vomiting only if just eaten
Kitchen Matches	Yes	Strychnine (rat and mouse Poison)	Yes
Laundry Detergent	No	Toilet Bowl Cleaners	Yes
Lead (found in old linoleum, old paint, old plaster or putty)	Only if eaten in the last half hour	Turpentine	No
Medications (antihistamines, tranquilizers, barbituates, amphetamines, heart pill, vitamins)	Yes	Warfin (rat and mouse poisons)	Yes
Motor Oil	No	Weed Killers	Yes



Make sure to take the poison or container and a sample of the vomit with you when you got to the Vet, go as soon as possible. ***Never induce vomiting if your dog is having seizures, has a slow heart rate, is unconscious, has a bloated abdomen or the product label say not to.***



Make sure you know what your dog took before doing anything, otherwise call the Vet, you may do more harm than good.



Chocolate--How much is dangerous

Chocolate is almost as tempting as a steak, that's why they go in the cupboards and under the Christmas tree, or on a table.

Chocolate contains caffeine and a related chemical called theobromine. Both are stimulants and raise your dog's heartbeat-occasionally it can be fatal. Most just get an upset stomach, diarrhea or vomiting.

The amount of chocolate that can cause death depends on your dog's size and the kind of chocolate he steals. Baking chocolate, half to one ounce can cause death in small dogs such as Toy Poodles. In medium-sized dogs, such as a Cocker Spaniel or Dachshunds, the amount is two to three ounces. In large dogs such as Lab or Collies 4 to 8 ounces can cause death.

With milk chocolate, four to ten ounces, may cause death in small dogs; one and one-half pounds in a medium dog; and two to four and a half pounds in a large dog.

Chocolate contains a substance called theobromine which cannot be readily metabolized by dogs. Even in small quantities, chocolate may be toxic to your dog.

