



Poisoning, What to Do

Pets have the potential for poisoning every day. Fortunately, most exposures are mild. The amount of a toxin that the pet eats often makes a difference and small amounts may not be serious. In some cases, however, even the smallest amount can be deadly. Follow these steps when pets eat something they shouldn't.

Don't panic

You will need to stay calm to help your pet in the best way possible.

Collect any helpful information

Gather any information about the poison. Collect any poison containers that can help identify the poison. In a plastic bag, seal any material your pet may have vomited or chewed on in case you need to bring it to your veterinarian.

Contact a poison center for pets

There is a charge for this call but they will tell you how serious it is and what you need to do. Your veterinarian will be able to call them later for no additional fee.

A poison center will need the following information:

- Your name & information
- Your credit card information
- Your pet's information (species, breed, age, sex, weight)
- Your pet's signs
- Any information about what poison your pet was exposed to
- How much time has passed since your pet was exposed to the poison

Pet Poison Helpline...855-764-7661 (less expensive)
ASPCA Poison Control Center.....888-462-4435

Both centers have good websites with information on different toxins.

Contact a veterinarian

Most of the time, pets should see a veterinarian even if they have vomited up the poison. There may be prolonged effects that will require monitoring.

If your pet is having seizures, losing consciousness, is unconscious, or having difficulty breathing, take your pet to an emergency clinic immediately! The clinic will call the poison center for you.

Emergency Numbers

Animal Emergency Clinic.....217-359-1977
U of I Emergency Clinic.....217-333-5300

