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Poisoning

If you suspect your pet may have eaten something poisonous the most important thing is to phone us **immediately**. If we can minimise the amount of the poison absorbed by treating within the first 2-4 hours of ingestion, there is much more likely to be a happy outcome. If you wait to see if your pet shows any ill effects it may be too late to do anything.

It is important to phone first rather than turning up unannounced, as this allows us to get things ready and minimise any delays.

When you phone we will need the following information:-

- Your name, address and pets name (if we have not seen a pet before we will also need the species, breed and approximate size/weight)
- The manufacturer and name written on the front of the packet i.e. Nurofen, Bio Slug and Snail Killer, Lindt Excellence Dark Chocolate)
- The active ingredients and concentration usually found on the back of the packet i.e. Nurofen- Ibuprofen 400mg per Tab, Slug and Snail Killer-Metaldehyde 3%, Lindt Dark – 70% Cocoa solids
- The amount the animal has taken in. It is safer to assume the largest possible quantity. i.e. $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ a 70g bar of Lindt Dark chocolate would be 35g.
- How long ago did the animal come into contact with the poison?

We will then ask you to come straight down to the surgery, please let us know how long this is likely to take. Also please bring the packaging of the poison with you.



Lily – All parts of the plant are very toxic to cats. Very small amounts cause the kidneys to fail within 24hrs after eating it. If the cat is not treated within the first 2-4 hrs it is usually fatal.



Onions & Garlic – They both contain an alkaloid that can cause the wall of red blood cells to rupture. This causes a potential life-threatening anaemia. Some dogs are much more sensitive than others, so severity is not always related to the amount ingested.



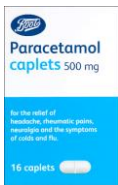
Antifreeze – Ethylene Glycol is poisonous to both dogs and cats, though it is more poisonous to cats. It is absorbed very quickly and it causes depression, wobbliness, muscle tremors, fitting and kidney failure. There is a treatment, but if time is wasted irreversible damage could have been already done.



Grapes and Raisins – They only affect dogs, but the actual poison has not been identified. It is also not dose-related and not all batches seem to be poisonous. This means if your dog has eaten grapes before and been fine it does not mean he will be fine on another occasion. It causes the kidneys to fail suddenly.



Permethrins – Cats are very sensitive to this group of flea products. They are sold commonly in pet shops as a dog spot-on flea treatment. Poisoning usually occurs when the owner mistakenly puts one on their cat. If this happens wash the area immediately. Poisoning causes muscle tremors and fitting.



Paracetamol – This is much more poisonous to cats than to dogs. Poisoning usually occurs when an owner decides to give one as a painkiller to their pet, not realising it's not safe. Very small quantities cause liver failure in cats. An antidote has to be sourced from local human hospitals and is not always available.



Ibuprofen (eg. Nurofen) – This is poisonous to dogs and cats. It causes severe stomach ulceration, vomiting and diarrhoea. It can also lead to kidney failure.



Xylitol – This is a sweetener found in chewing gum and other sweets. This seems to affect mainly dogs. It causes a sudden and potentially fatal drop in the blood sugar level. This leads to wobbliness, collapse, fitting and coma. Also in some animals can cause sudden liver failure and clotting problems.



Slug Bait – Metaldehyde causes panting and drooling followed by muscle tremors, wobbliness, hyperthermia and convulsions.