

Poisoning in Dogs

There are many plants and chemicals that are poisonous to dogs. Some make them sick and some can cause death. Puppies are especially at risk since they want to put everything in their mouth. You know your dog best. If you suspect that he/she is not acting their self, go to the vet right away or call poison control at the number listed below.

ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at **1-888-426-4435**

Zinc Poisoning

All pennies and some other coins minted in the United States since 1982 contain 99.2 percent zinc and 0.8 percent copper.

Ingesting only one or two pennies can cause death in a dog.

Products containing (but not limited to) toxic amounts of zinc.

Galvanized materials like nuts and bolts, cabinet pulls or knobs, nails, batteries, metal objects around the house and garage. Zinc Oxide ointment used for diaper rash and skin irritations contain large amounts of zinc. Other sources are paints, calamine lotions, shampoos, fertilizers and the list goes on and on.

Symptoms of zinc poisoning include diarrhea, weakness, excessive vomiting, pale or white color gums, red or orange urine and no appetite.

Lead

Lead poisoning can be caused by lead based paint chips or lead paint dust from older homes.

Many toys, tile, fishing weights, insulation, glazed ceramic bowls, metal objects found in the home contain lead. If ingested the levels of lead can build up in a dog's body and cause lead poisoning.

Snail and Slug Bait

Snail and Slug Bait contain arsenic and metaldehyde and is extremely toxic to dogs. Arsenic and Metaldehyde are also found in weed killers, ant poisons and insecticides.

If your dog has ingested any of these products the symptoms would be; thirst and drooling, vomiting, diarrhea. Take your dog immediately to the hospital for treatment to prevent death.

These products act very quickly in a dogs system, so time is of the essence.

Medications

Keep all medications in a safe place (both human and pet medications). Never give your dog human medication without first asking your veterinarian. Symptoms of medication poisoning are; vomiting, diarrhea, dilated pupils, confusion, irregular breathing, seizures, coma and without medical treatment; death.

Pesticides

Include flea and tick collars and flea and tick applications, sweet smelling rat poisons, other products found around the garden and garage. Symptoms of pesticide poisoning are; pale gums, internal bleeding (blood in urine/stool), fatigue, nosebleeds, excessive thirst and drooling, heavy breathing, muscles tremors and without medical treatment; death.

Antifreeze

The sweet tasting ethylene glycol attracts dogs. They can lick it up in the driveway. Always check to make sure your car is not leaking antifreeze. ETHYLENE GLYCOL is in many chemical products in the home and garden; keep them out of reach.

Symptoms of ethylene glycol poisoning are; vomiting, diarrhea, increased thirst, dilated eyes, depression, seizures, difficulty breathing, coma and without medical treatment; death.

Chocolate

Chocolate cannot be metabolized by dogs. It contains Theobromine which a chemical similar to caffeine. Candy bars, M&M's or just a small square of baker's chocolate can be fatal to dogs of any size.

The signs of Chocolate poisoning are; vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, seizures, muscle tremors, cardiac arrest and death.

Onions & Garlic

A dog's digestive system cannot digest onions and garlic. The chemical thiosulphate causes red blood cells to rupture resulting in anemia. Small amounts can be very serious.

Symptoms of this poisoning include; difficulty breathing, weakness, vomiting, jaundice and irregular heartbeat.

Xylitol

Xylitol is an artificial sweetener that is found in many cakes, cookies, sugarless candy and gum.

Symptoms of this poisoning are; fatigue, staggering, irregular heartbeat or breathing, seizures, coma and death.

Grapes and Raisins

It does not take many grapes or raisins to be fatal to most dogs.

Symptoms are vomiting, diarrhea, bloody or foamy urine, irregular heartbeat or breathing, kidney failure and death.

Avocado

All parts of the avocado are very poisonous to dogs. Avocado will destroy the heart muscle and lungs.

Signs of poisoning are; swollen abdomen, difficulty breathing, seizures, coma and death.

Alcohol

This poisoning can come from small amounts of alcoholic beverages like beer, vanilla extract, and raw bread dough. Alcohol poisoning can cause bloat and intestinal rupture.

Symptoms are; swollen stomach, seizures, vomiting, diarrhea, disorientation, coma and death.

Household & Garden Plants

The list of poisonous plants is very long both indoors and out. The most commonly found are; ivy, hydrangea, foxgloves, azalea, amaryllis, tulip, rhododendron, yew, hyacinth and all species of lily.

Symptoms of ingestion are; vomiting, diarrhea, dilated eyes, swelling of the mouth and throat, excessive drooling, excessive thirst, muscle tremors, seizures, coma and death.

Typical dog reactions to poison:

- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Irregular heartbeat
 - Dilated pupils
- Difficulty breathing
 - Pale gums
- Swollen abdomen
 - Muscle tremors
- Bloody/painful urination or defecation
 - Bleeding from any orifice