

## Tylenol Poisoning In Dogs

There are some over the counter human medications that are specifically harmful to dogs. Tylenol is one of them. Acetaminophen is one of the most commonly used pain relievers. However, in pets it can cause serious side effects. Toxic levels can be reached when a pet is over medicated with acetaminophen, or when a pet has gotten hold of medication and ingested it. It is very important to be able to recognize the symptoms of toxicity, so that you can properly treat your pet if it has accidentally ingested this human medication.

The effects of acetaminophen poisoning are serious, often causing non-repairable liver damage. The most common symptoms that you may notice in pets suffering from acetaminophen toxicity include:

- Vomiting
- Labored breathing
- Swollen face, neck or limbs
- Hypothermia (reduced body temperature)
- Grey Colored gums
- Jaundice (yellowish color to skin, whites of eyes), due to liver damage
- Coma

If you believe that your pet has ingested acetaminophen, it will typically be treated as an emergency situation. Seek the advice of a veterinarian immediately, as treatment may be necessary. Your veterinarian will perform a chemical blood profile, a complete blood count, and a urinalysis to determine the level of toxicity, so that a potential treatment can be prescribed.

If your animal requires treatment, it will need to be given supplemental oxygen, intravenous fluids, and possibly drugs given intravenously, including vitamin C, cimetidine, and N-acetylcysteine. The amino acid cysteine may also be used and is one of the most effective ingredients in this treatment regiment, necessary for repairing any potential liver damage. Cysteine can also work to reduce the overall level of toxicity in the body. Treatment in a timely fashion is essential to give your animal the best chance of recovery and survival.

Pet owners should never self-diagnose and treat their pets with human medication, and should take precautions to keep household medications out of their dog's reach to avoid a potentially harmful or fatal reaction. Your veterinarian will recommend drugs which have been tested and proven safe for pets.