

What To Do If You Suspect Your Pet Has Been Poisoned

At the Manchester Animal Hospital, some of the most urgent calls we receive involve potential poisonings. The following information provided by the AAPCA Animal Poison Control Center and the Pet Poison Helpline can be life saving, so please save the telephone numbers provided below, follow the advice given and be prepared with an emergency first aid kit.

It is very important to keep your wits about you. Rapid response is important, but panicking can interfere with the process of helping your pet . Take 30 to 60 seconds to safely collect and have at hand any material involved. This may be of great benefit to your vet and/or Animal Poison Control Center toxicologists, as they determine what poison or poisons are involved. In the event that you need to take your pet to a local veterinarian, be sure to take the product's container with you. Also, collect in a sealable plastic bag any material your pet may have vomited or chewed

If you witness your pet consuming material that you suspect might be toxic, do not hesitate to seek emergency assistance, even if you do not notice any adverse effects. Sometimes, even if poisoned, an animal may appear normal for several hours or for days after the incident.

The telephone number of the **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** is **(888) 426-4435**. There is a \$65 consultation fee for this service.

Be ready with the following information:

- The species, breed, age, sex, weight and number of animals involved.
- The animal's symptoms.
- Information regarding the exposure, including the agent (if known), the amount of the agent involved and the time elapsed since the time of exposure.
- Have the product container/packaging available for reference.

Please note: If your animal is having seizures, losing consciousness, is unconscious or is having difficulty breathing, telephone ahead and bring your pet immediately to your local veterinarian or emergency veterinary clinic. If necessary, he or she may call the APCC.

Keep the telephone number of the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center—**(888) 426-4435**—as well as that of your local veterinarian, in a prominent location.

Invest in an emergency first-aid kit for your pet. The kit should contain:

- A fresh bottle of hydrogen peroxide, 3 percent USP (to induce vomiting)
- A turkey baster, bulb syringe or large medicine syringe (to administer peroxide)
- Saline eye solution
- Artificial tear gel (to lubricate eyes after flushing)

- Mild grease-cutting dishwashing liquid (for bathing an animal after skin contamination)
- Forceps (to remove stingers)
- A muzzle (to protect against fear- or excitement-induced biting)
- A can of your pet's favorite wet food
- A pet carrier.

Another great resource for on-line information is the Pet Poison Helpline at the 24/7 Animal Poison Control Center. Their phone number is 800-213-6680. Their website is www.petpoisonhelpline.com/poisons

The Pet Poison Helpline is a 24-hour animal poison control service available throughout the U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean for pet owners and veterinary professionals who require assistance with treating a potentially poisoned pet. They have the ability to help every poisoned pet, with all types of poisonings, 24 hours a day. Their knowledge and expertise of pet poisons will put your mind at ease when dealing with a potential emergency. In order to provide this critical service, please be advised that there is a \$39 per incident fee, payable by credit card. This fee covers the initial consultation as well as all follow-up calls associated with the management of the case.

Time is of the essence when dealing with potential poisonings. Your veterinarian will be able to guide you. However, remember that a call to the APCC or the Pet Poison Hotline may be required as their staff of specialists in toxicology will have access to information when your veterinarian is not available.