



Pets and poisons

YOUR GUIDE TO KEEPING
YOUR ANIMALS SAFE



Animal Welfare Foundation

www.bva-awf.org.uk

Produced in association with the

Veterinary Poisons Information Service

www.vpisglobal.com

AWF is the charity led by the veterinary profession

Registered Charity No. 287118

Preventing poisoning in the home:

- Keep all medicines out of reach — preferably in a locked kitchen cupboard
- Keep human and veterinary medicines separate
- Never give animals medicines intended for human use—only medicines prescribed by your vet
- Some products intended for dogs can be hazardous to cats. Always read the instructions
- Dispose of unwanted medicines safely — ideally return them to your pharmacy
- Some foods (for example, chocolate, onions, grapes, raisins, sultanas, avocados, certain nuts, xylitol-sweetened foods and sweets) can be toxic. Do not allow animals access to foods intended for human consumption. Pets should only be given food and treats formulated for animals
- Some plants are hazardous (for example, lilies to cats, daffodils) — keep houseplants and floral displays out of reach of pets
- Clean up spills promptly



Preventing poisoning in the garden or open spaces:

- Prevent access to gardens where pesticides or fertilisers have recently been used, especially slug pellets and rodent baits. Access to such baits can be reduced by placing them in narrow tubes etc
- Keep pesticides/herbicides in a safe and inaccessible place—away from all pets
- Never leave buckets or watering cans full of mixed chemicals
- Do not allow animals to drink from ponds/puddles that appear oily or otherwise polluted
- Be careful not to leave plant bulbs lying around
- Keep dustbin lids firmly closed to prevent access
- Replace the tops of containers securely after use



What to do if you think your animal has been poisoned:

Don't panic—remember, few cases have fatal outcomes and few poisons act very rapidly.

- Remove your animal(s) from the source of poison—protecting yourself if necessary
- Contact your vet for advice immediately, especially if your animal is unwell, and be ready to provide information on when, where and how poisoning occurred, as well as the quantity consumed
- If instructed to go to the practice, take a sample of the poison and the packaging with you
- If the skin is contaminated then wash thoroughly with **WATER**
- **DO NOT** try to make your animal vomit—unless you are instructed to do so by your vet.



Always
read labels on
products
and follow their
warnings about
contact with
animals

Some substances which can be poisonous...



Slug pellets



Plant bulbs



Chocolate



Raisins



Human medicines



Lilies



Car anti-freeze



Rodenticide (rat poison)

Substances of low toxicity

The following is a list of substances that are frequently eaten by pets. If these are eaten it can generally be anticipated that there will be no clinical signs, other than drooling, vomiting and/or diarrhoea.

- Antacid tablets ('over the counter')
- Blu-tack® or other similar adhesives
- Chalk
- Charcoal
- Coal (real or artificial)
- *Cotoneaster* species
- Cut-flower/houseplant food
- Expanded polystyrene
- Folic acid
- *Fuchsia* species
- Holly (*Ilex* species)
- Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* species)
- Matches
- Mistletoe (*Viscum album*)
- Oral contraceptives and hormone replacement therapy (HRT) tablets
- *Pyracantha* species
- Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)
- Silica gel
- Wax candles/crayons

Although in many cases treatment may not be necessary, if you are at all concerned then contact your vet for advice. The animal should always have easy access to drinking water.



Contact details for your vet:



Veterinary Poisons information Service

The VPIS is a specialist 24-hour emergency service, which is only available to veterinary professionals and animal welfare organisations, providing information and advice on the optimum management of actual and suspected acute poisoning in animals. For more information on the VPIS visit www.vpisglobal.com

Animal Welfare Foundation

AWF is the charity led by the veterinary profession. We are committed to improving the welfare of all animals through veterinary science, education and debate.

The Foundation is funded entirely by voluntary contributions. To make a donation please visit www.bva-awf.org.uk or call us on **020 7908 6375**

You can download the AWF's other leaflets and resources from our website or you can request copies by contacting us:

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