



## **PET POISON! WHAT TO DO**

Stay Calm! If your pet has potentially gotten into a drug or poison, first and foremost, remain calm while you assess the situation. Act quickly, deliberately, and efficiently but remain calm, so that you are able to think with a clear head.

Call your veterinarian immediately.

When you call, there are six important pieces of information that you will need to know:

1. What did your pet get into?  
Make a note of the active ingredients, if available, as well as the name of the product.
2. How much did your pet get into?  
Try to estimate the quantity, as best you can if you cannot determine the exact amount.
3. How did your pet get into the substance?  
Did your pet ingest it by mouth, or get it in its eyes, or on its skin?
4. How long ago was it?  
Try to determine when the incident happened, but again, make a best guess estimate if it is not possible to be exact.
5. How is your pet acting?  
Assess your pet's behavior to determine if it is acting normally or somehow acting differently. Try to be able to describe any abnormal behavior as best you can.
6. How long has it been acting that way?  
Try to determine when your pet started behaving differently, and again, make a best guess estimate if you cannot be exact.

If necessary, write the answers to these questions down, so that you will be able to clearly communicate with your veterinarian when you call.

If your pet has potentially swallowed a poison, your veterinarian may want you to try to do some things at home, before bringing your pet in to the clinic. Your veterinarian may want you to make your pet vomit and will instruct you as to how to do so, if appropriate. You should not make your pet vomit if it is unconscious, having seizures (convulsions), drowsy, or unable to gag. Save any vomit in a clean sealable plastic bag or container.

There are certain poisons for which you should not make your pet vomit, including strong acids, strong alkalis and petroleum products. Your veterinarian may instruct you to give milk or water to dilute these poisons if they have been ingested.

Common household items that may be used to induce vomiting include hydrogen peroxide, table salt, or mustard. Your veterinarian will tell you how much to give. If your pet does not vomit after giving it one of these agents, do not repeat the dose unless your veterinarian tells you to do so.

If your pet has gotten poison in its eyes or on its skin, your veterinarian may instruct you to wash the area with large amounts of water or flush the eye(s) with an eye rinsing solution.

If your pet is having seizures, protect it from hurting itself by removing any furniture or any other objects from the immediate area. Do not put your hands in or near your pet's mouth; your pet will not swallow its tongue and it may unintentionally bite you.

If instructed to bring your pet to the veterinary clinic, do so immediately. Bring with you any collected vomit and if available, a sample of the suspected poison.