

What to do if your pet gets poisoned

Your pet has just ingested something toxic. What do you do? First, take a deep breath. The more calm, cool, and collected you are, the sooner you can seek the correct medical attention. Then get a handle on the situation by taking the following steps:



1. Remove your pet from the area. Make sure no other pets or children are exposed to the area, and safely remove any poisonous material.
2. Check to make sure your pet is breathing normally and acting fine otherwise.
3. Collect a sample of the material, along with the packaging, vial, or container. You'll need that information to help your veterinarian or a pet poison expert assess the situation.
4. Don't give your dog any milk, food, salt, oil, or any other home remedies. Doing so will likely complicate the poisoning.
5. Never induce vomiting without talking to your veterinarian or a pet poison expert—doing so may be detrimental or contraindicated. Sometimes, to induce vomiting in dogs, it may be recommended to give hydrogen peroxide. However, hydrogen peroxide won't help induce vomiting in cats, and stronger veterinary prescription medications are necessary to get your cat to vomit up any toxins.
6. **GET HELP.** Program our phone number into your phone, as well as an emergency veterinarian's number and a pet poison hotline number. *Be sure to have credit card information handy as there is a fee associated with consulting with the 24-hour Pet Poison Hotlines. If your pet is microchipped with HomeAgain and current on annual fees, the consultation fee will be waived with ASPCA Poison hotline.*
 - 24-hour Pet Poison Hotlines:
 - **Pet Poison Helpline at 800-213-6680**
 - **American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal's Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435**
 - Animal Hospital of Shawnee Hills main line 614.389.6455 or our emergency line after hours 614.578.9984 until 10 PM
 - Veterinary Emergency hospitals open 24 hours, 7 days a week year-round:
 - OSU Veterinary Emergency Hospital in Columbus 614.252.3551
 - MedVet Emergency Services in Worthington 614.846.5800

Remember that a pet's prognosis is always better when toxicity is reported immediately, so DON'T WAIT to see if your pet becomes symptomatic before calling for help. Calling right away is safer for your pet and could help you save on treatment costs in the long run. Remember that there's a narrow window of time to decontaminate in cases of poisoning.

Most people know that their pets can't have chocolate, but did you also know they shouldn't eat avocados?



Here are some other common household items that can harm your pet:

- Over-the-counter medications for humans (ibuprofen, aspirin, etc)
- Grapes & raisins
- Onions & garlic
- Chewing gum (and anything with Xylitol)
- Many household plants including all Lily varieties and Poinsettia
- Ant traps and rodent bait
- Detergents and fabric softener
- Batteries
- ANY foreign object – socks, toys, rubber bands, fabric/ribbon, etc.



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