

Animal Poison Control Center

National Animal Poison Control Center

1-888-426-4435 (\$50.00 charge)

University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine
credit card calls: 1-800-548-2423 [\$50 charge per call]
all other calls: 1-900-680-0000 [\$3.75/min charge]

When calling, have the following information available:

- Breed
- Age
- Sex
- Weight
- Physiologic condition (i.e. neutered, pregnant, lactating, health disorders, etc.)
- Name of the product and manufacturer
- Active ingredient and concentration listed on the label
- Formulation of the product (i.e. solid, liquid, aerosol)
- Amount of product the dog was exposed to
- Time since exposure
- Any symptoms observed (drooling, vomiting, difficulty breathing, etc.)

Poisoning:

Accidental poisoning of dogs is fairly common because they are frequently exposed to a wide variety of chemicals that can cause acute or chronic illness. When there is a sudden onset of illness in a previously healthy dog, poisoning is frequently suspected. It is usually difficult to prove unless the dog's exposure to the poison was observed or otherwise known. With a few exceptions, chemical poisons do not produce distinctive signs of illness. Drooling, trembling, evidence of abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, convulsions and coma are commonly seen. When there is good reason to suspect that a dog has recently (less than 2 hours) ingested a potentially poisonous substance which is non-corrosive, an attempt should be made to remove it from the upper gastrointestinal tract. If the dog hasn't vomited and can swallow, equal parts of hydrogen peroxide and water should be given promptly at a dosage of 1 or 2 tablespoons per 10 lb of body weight to induce vomiting. Alternatively, table salt can be used; either 2 teaspoonfuls can be dissolved in a 1/2 cup of water can be given orally or 1/2 teaspoonful of salt can be put on the base of the tongue. A teaspoonful of mustard powder dissolved in 1/2 cup of warm water can also be used to stimulate vomiting. The Poison Control Center in your area may be able to provide information about the antidote if the poison can be identified. Otherwise, activated charcoal can be given by the veterinarian to prevent further absorption of the poison from the intestinal tract after vomiting has occurred. Common sources of poisons ingested by dogs include: rodenticides, other pesticides, paint or other substances containing lead, drain solvents, antifreeze solutions, and household drugs. Garbage and some plants are sources of other toxic substances that cause signs of poisoning.