



## **DOG POISON AWARENESS IN YOUR HOUSE**

Dogs, much like young children, like to explore their world with their mouths. Basically, you've got to think about your dog and poisons in the same way as you would a child – if your dog can reach it, there's a good chance they will want to try it – so make sure you keep household products out of their reach.

As we know, some dogs eat just about anything, so it's a good idea to have dog insurance for that unexpected trip to the vet.

Prevention is far cheaper than cure and there are some simple, common sense things you can do to protect your dog from poisoning. Keep all medication in an out of reach cabinet. Even in small doses, vitamins, cold medications, painkillers, diet pills and antidepressants can all be lethal to your dog.

### **YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR DOG FROM POISONING BY:**

Keeping them locked up or out of his reach

Keeping your rubbish out of your dog's reach.

Be careful with the plants around your house. Pick off wilting petals before they fall and make sure your dog cannot forage in open compost. Be especially careful with bulbs as these can be lethal to dogs if ingested.

Keep your dog away from grassy areas that have been freshly fertilised or sprayed with herbicides or insecticides – it is not safe for your dog until these have dried completely.

Always store household products in a place that your dog cannot get to.

### **Some Symptoms of Poisoning:**

Lethargic and uninterested, Gums change colour (sometimes grey) Oral or skin irritation

Upset stomach / Vomiting / Diarrhoea, Weakness, Rapid breathing, Fever, Drooling, Coma

Heart failure, Depression, Excitability or lethargy, Tremors / Seizures / Fitting, Increased Thirst

Dilated Pupils, Dizziness / Loss of Balance, Disorientation

It is imperative that you contact your vet immediately if you suspect your dog has eaten any toxic substances. If the poisoning happens outside of normal working hours then contact your emergency vet – it's a good idea to have this number somewhere handy just in case you need it! REMEMBER: The quicker you get medical attention for your dog, the more likely are its chances of survival.

### **What to do if you think your dog has been poisoned...**

If you suspect that your dog has ingested something harmful – KEEP CALM. Contact your vet immediately and get expert advice. If you think it might be something lethal then take your dog to the vet right away – don't wait to call.

Check your vehicle for leaking **anti-freeze** or coolant and always keep unused **anti-freeze** out of reach of your dog.

If you need to use rodent poisons check the warnings on the packaging and place the poison where it is inaccessible to your dog.

### **Common Poisons**

#### **Plants**

Many types of plants and flowers can be poisonous to your dog. Check with your national poisons centre. Effects of the poisoning range from mild to severe depending on the type of plant and the quantity consumed. Some plants will only cause mild symptoms of lethargy or listlessness, while others can cause seizures, coma or even death. Learn about the plants in your garden and neighbourhood that are dangerous and be sure your dog does not have access to them. Ideally, toxic plants on your own property should be removed. Houseplants are easier to control - simply do not keep toxic plants inside your home. If you are planning to get new plants or flowers, research beforehand to learn whether or not they are toxic. Here is a list of plants that are commonly known to be poisonous to dogs, however, this is not a complete list:

Daffodil (especially the bulbs); Castor oil bush (dogs love the seeds); Cherry laurel; Laburnum (and related species); Lilies; Philodendron; Azalea; Foxgloves; Ivy (some species); Rhubarb; Yew; Alfafa (if ingested in quantity); Aloe Vera; Amaryllis; Apple (seeds); Apricot (stone); Asparagus Fern; Autumn crocus; Azalea; Baby's Breath; Bird of Paradise; Box Caladium; Calla Lily; Casto Bean; Ceriman; Cherry (seeds and wilting leaves); Christmas Rose; Cineraria; Clematis; Cordatum; Corn Plant; Croton; Cuban Laurel; Cyclamen; Dieffenbachia, Dracaena, Dragon Tree, Elephants Ears, Emerald Fern; Geranium, Indian Rubber Plant; Kalanchoe; Mother in Laws Tongue; Marijuana; Mistletoe; Morning Glory; Narcissus; Nephytis; Deadly Nightshade; Oleander; Onion; Peach (wilting leaves and stone); Pencil Cactus; Plumosa Fern; Poison Oak; Pothos; Potato Plant; Primrose; Rhododendron; Swiss Cheese Plant; Tomato Plant (Green fruit, stems and leaves; Weeping Fig; Poinsettia; Mistletoe; and Holly Berries.

If you get a real Christmas tree try to prevent your dog from drinking the water by securing a tree skirt around it. If the tree has been treated with fertilizer then this might make your dog unwell

Be very careful with your Christmas lilies and make sure that you clean up any pollen and fallen petals as these can cause adverse reactions if eaten by your dog.