

Canine Toxins

Top Ten Toxins for 2013

1. Chocolate
2. Xylitol
3. NSAIDs
4. OTC Cough, Cold & Allergy Medication
5. Rodenticides
6. Grapes & Raisins
7. Insect Bait Stations
8. ADD / ADHD Medications
9. Glucosamine Joint Supplements
10. Silica Gel Packets & Oxygen Absorbers

Food Toxins

- **Avocados** - Not toxic in dogs and cats, but very toxic to birds. Even though toxicity is not a factor, there is the risk of gastrointestinal obstruction if the pit is consumed
- **Chocolate** – Bakers and dark chocolate are the most toxic (theobromine & caffeine). Milk chocolate is toxic in larger quantities. Clinical signs include acute gastrointestinal, neural, and cardiac issues. Toxicity is based on quantity ingested, thus smaller dogs need to consume less to reach a toxic dose. The first symptoms seen are vomiting and diarrhea, followed by restlessness and an increased heart rate.
- **Grapes / Raisins** – One of the more deadly items that dogs can consume. Every animal may react differently, but as few as 1 or 2 grapes can cause acute renal failure. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, increased water intake, increased urination, lethargy, inappetence, halitosis, and/or dehydration.
- **Onions / Garlic** – Consumption of products containing these as well as onions and garlic themselves can be toxic. Symptoms include onion breath, hemoglobinuria, and/or a hemolytic anemia.
- **Macadamia Nuts** – Contain a neurotoxin that can cause vomiting, muscle tremors, and joint pain.
- **Apricots** – All parts of the tree and fruit are toxic. Ingestion may lead to cyanide poisoning. Symptoms include dilated pupils, bright red gums and decreased tissue oxygenation.
- **Xylitol** – Natural sugar-free sweetener, used in many products. Ingestion of as little as 0.1 g/kg can cause an acute, life threatening hypoglycemia. Large doses can lead to liver failure. Clinical signs include weakness, vomiting, tremors, jaundice, and tarry stools.

Medications

- **NSAIDs** – Although your veterinarian may prescribe NSAIDs for your pet, they are not without risk. Their use can lead to severe gastric ulceration and acute renal failure. Clinical signs include vomiting, diarrhea, tarry stool, bloody vomitus, lethargy, inappetence, abdominal pain, and/or seizures.
- **Acetaminophen** – Liver damages

Toxic Plants

- **Sago Palm** – All parts of the plant are poisonous, and lead to acute liver failure. Clinical signs include drooling and Inappetence. Vomiting and diarrhea can be present as early as 15 minutes after ingestion. CNS signs and liver failure may not be seen for 2-3 days. Ingestion is an emergency and veterinary treatment should be sought immediately.
- **Oleander** – Contains a cardiac glycoside, which can lead to cardiac disturbances
- **Tulip** – The bulb is the most toxic part. Will lead to severe irritation of the tissues in the mouth and esophagus. Signs include an increase in heart rate and dyspnea.
- Other toxic plants include – Azalea, Rhododendron, and Yews.

How to Deal with Toxins

- Prevent your pet from eating it in the first place
- If it has eaten something it shouldn't, minimize absorption of the toxin
- Observe your pet and deal with the symptoms!

What you can do at home

- Minimize exposure....
- Induce vomiting
 - 3% Hydrogen Peroxide
 - 2 ml per pound body weight (Do not administer over 50 ml in dogs), should work within 15 minutes. May repeat once.
- Minimize absorption
 - Pepto-Bismol (Never give to a cat)
 - 1 ml per 10 pounds of body weight 3 times a day
- Observe the pet for symptoms
- Never allow your pet to become dehydrated

Headed for the Vet

- Things the Veterinarian MUST Know....
 - Is this the pet that actually has the problem?
 - Do you have other animals? Are they OK?
 - How long has it been going on?
 - Was the pet "normal" before this occurred?
- What Veterinarians would like to Know....
 - Is this dog pregnant or being used at stud?
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Appetite
 - Water Consumption
 - Urinary Habits

Websites you Should Know

- Veterinary Partner.com
 - <http://www.veterinarypartner.com>
- Pet Poison Helpline
 - <http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com>
- ASPCA Poison Control
 - <http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control>
- FDA Veterinary Website
 - <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/default.htm>