

Advisory for pet owners if their pet is suspected to be exposed to poisons.

1. What should I do if I suspect that my pet ate some poison?

If you witness or suspect that your pet has been poisoned, consult a veterinarian as soon as possible for advice.

If you suspect your pet has ingested poison, try to wipe out the mouth with a damp cloth, but do not induce vomiting or give your pet anything to eat/drink unless advised to do so by a veterinarian.

The veterinarian may request more details about the poison, including the ingredient list or identifying label. If possible, bring a sample of the poison in a jar to bring with you to the veterinarian, and safely remove the rest to prevent other pets from getting into it. Collect a sample or take photos of any material that your pet may have vomited.

Be prepared with information such as knowing what your pet ingested and when, how much your pet ingested, pet's current weight and pet's known medical history.

If your pet is showing abnormal behaviours or appears unwell, seek immediate veterinary attention.

2. What should I do if my pet has something on their skin?

Ensure that the affected area is washed thoroughly with soap and water. Thoroughly removing chemicals soon after exposure can reduce the risk of irritation, burns and in some cases, systemic poisoning. After completing the wash, or if your pet is showing abnormal behaviours or appears unwell, seek immediate veterinary attention.

3. What should I do if my pet has something in their eyes?

Irrigate the affected eye(s) with tap water or normal saline for up to 15 minutes. Have a second person to help you, if needed. Seek veterinary attention immediately.

4. What are the common signs of poisoning in pets?

Different toxins cause different symptoms. Below are some common signs of poisoning in pets. The exact symptoms that a pet exhibits will depend on the pet's size, the type of toxin, and how much of the toxin was ingested.

- Urinating more or less than normal
- Diarrhoea (with blood or without)
- Discolouration of the skin or gums
- Shaking or convulsions
- Abnormal heart rhythm
- Stomach cramping
- Labored breathing
- Heavy panting
- Refusing food
- Drooling

- Collapse
- Nausea

5. How long does it take for a pet to show signs of poisoning?

The time it takes for a pet to show signs of poisoning will depend on the poison. Some poisons cause reactions right away, while others cause symptoms several hours or days later. If you suspect that your pet has been poisoned, seek veterinary advice.

6. What can I do to protect my pet?

When outdoors, keep your pet leashed and under proper control e.g., ensuring your pet remains within your line of sight and your pet can respond to your commands. Owners should also keep a close watch on their pets eating or chewing anything when out on walks, and closely monitor their pets' health thereafter. When indoors, keep potential poisons away from pets.