

Pet Poisoning Prevention

Pet poisoning is a surprisingly common issue, but the good news is that it's one of the most preventable accidents out there! While many substances are safe for us humans, they can pose serious risks to our furry friends. The key to keeping your pets safe is knowing what can be harmful and making sure those things are kept well out of reach. Remember, you're the first line of defence in an emergency. There's no pet version of 999, so being quick and calm in assessing the situation can really make a difference in your pet's chances of recovery.

To help, we've compiled a list of foods, plants, and household items that are toxic to pets. We recommend printing this list out and sticking it on your fridge so it's always



within reach.

What to Do in an Emergency

First things first—take a deep breath and try to stay calm.

In an emergency, it's crucial to keep a level head. If you panic, you might find it harder to help your pet, and it could lead to mistakes that put you in danger as well. So, take a moment to assess your surroundings. Look for any potential hazards that could explain why your pet is in distress. Once you've ensured it's safe, you can proceed with caution.



Prevention is Key

Pet-proofing your home is a lot like child-proofing it. Just as new parents need to scout for dangers that could harm a curious baby, you should do the same for your four-legged family member! Here are some areas to check for potential hazards:

- **Cabinets or doors:** Ensure they can't be easily opened to access cleaning chemicals or other toxic substances.
- **Plants:** Identify any houseplants or garden flora that could be harmful to your pets.
- **Unsupervised areas:** Keep an eye on places like garages or basements where hazardous materials like paints or solvents are often stored.



Signs of Poisoning

It's crucial to recognise the signs that your pet might have been poisoned, which can include:

- Excessive salivation
- Difficulty breathing
- Unusual excitability
- Loss of consciousness
- Seizures
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea

Keep in mind that this information is meant for educational purposes and shouldn't replace professional veterinary advice. Always consult your vet in case of suspected poisoning.

Gather Important Information for Your Vet

When you contact your vet, it helps to have as much information as possible. Here's what to prepare:

- **Timing:** When did the poisoning occur? Knowing how long your pet was exposed can guide treatment.
- **Substances involved:** Bring any packaging or labels of the items your pet came into contact with. This will help the vet understand what they're dealing with.
- **Sample of vomit:** If your pet has vomited, collect a sample in a Ziplock bag for testing.

- **Immediate communication:** Let your vet know what happened as soon as possible so they can advise you on the next steps.



Additional Tips

- **For dry chemicals:** If your pet comes into contact with a dry chemical, brush off as much as you can before washing it away, since some chemicals can react negatively to water.
- **For corrosive substances:** If a toxic substance is on your pet's skin, flush it off carefully with water, but don't let it spread to other areas.
- **Wear gloves:** When cleaning off toxic substances, protect yourself with gloves to avoid harming yourself in the process.
- **Watch those paws:** Be cautious about letting your pet walk through unknown liquids or powders, as they might lick it off their paws later.
- **Secure your rubbish:** Pets are notorious for rummaging through the rubbish, so be mindful of what you throw away to keep them safe from potential poisons.

By staying informed and vigilant, you can help ensure your pet lives a happy, healthy life free from the dangers of poisoning!