



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

There are several human medications as well as foods and chemicals that can be harmful and even deadly to your pet! Here are only a few to list:

- **Tylenol:**

can cause: severe liver failure, and damage to red blood cells which carry oxygen to the body.

- **Ibuprofen, naproxen, Advil:**

**Can cause:** lack of blood flow to the kidneys and interferes with the production of compounds that help protect the inner lining of the stomach. Can lead to kidney failure and severe stomach irritation.

- **Caffeine and Chocolate (the darker the worse the effect)**

**Main chemical:** Theobromine is in the same family as caffeine and is a type of stimulant (they both are methylxanines).

**Can cause:** Theobromine stimulates the central nervous system, cardiovascular system, and causes an increase in blood pressure. These effects are heightened in pets and can cause a various amount of problems including heart failure. The darker and less refined the chocolate, the worse it is for your pet. Cocoa powder being the worse.

- **Chewing Gum:** “sugar free” gum that has a product to sweeten called Xylitol is deadly to dogs and cats! The ingestion of Xylitol is fast acting to reach the blood stream.

**Main Chemical:** Xylitol

**Can cause:** liver failure

- **Onions/garlic:**

**Can cause:** red blood cell destruction (specifically, Heinz body formation) and result in anemia. Cats and Japanese breeds of dogs (Akita, Shiba Inu, etc) are even more sensitive to the effects of these plants.

- **Any type of rodent or bug poison**

**Can Cause:** the inability for blood to clot in even the simplest accidents.

**Main Chemical:** Warfarin. Unfortunately, dogs and cats do sometimes go on to consume rodents that have been poisoned. The toxin is passed up the food chain, and your pet can end up with secondary toxicity. So even if you have no bait around your home, your pet isn't automatically safe.

- **Antifreeze**

**Can Cause:** brain, liver, and kidney failure.

**Main Chemical:** It is the toxin ethylene glycol that makes antifreeze lethal

If you suspect your pet has ingested any of these or if he/she has ingested anything you are uncertain of, DO NOT hesitate to call or take your pet to a Veterinarian **immediately**. The common misconception is that, “oh, it was only a little”, or, “my dog/cat will be fine.” The crucial period of time for treatment is within the first 30 minutes after ingestion has occurred.