Prevention of ibuprofen poisoning

• Never give ibuprofen to your dog.
• If you have ibuprofen in your handbag, do not leave it lying around.
• Do not allow your pet to lick your hands or skin after applying a cream or ointment that contains ibuprofen.
• Pick up any dropped tablets promptly.
• Do not leave any medicines unattended.
• Replace the tops of containers securely after use.
• Store medicines securely out of sight and reach of pets.
• Dispose of unwanted medicines safely (return them to your pharmacy).

What to do if you think your pet has been poisoned

EMERGENCY ADVICE

• Remove your pet from the source of poison.
• Do not try to make your pet vomit – NEVER give salt water.
• Contact your veterinary surgeon for advice - do not delay seeking advice even if your pet is well. Your vet will ask for details of what has happened.
• Collect the poison and take a sample with you if you are advised to take your pet to the practice.
• Remember to protect yourself and others

Contact details for your vet:

Contact details for your veterinary surgeon:

The Veterinary Poisons Information Service (VPIS) is a 24-hour telephone emergency service for veterinary professionals providing information on the management of actual and suspected poisoning in animals.

Ibuprofen poisoning in dogs
Dogs are very sensitive to the effects of ibuprofen and it can cause effects on the gut and kidneys.

The clinical signs of ibuprofen poisoning can include:
- Vomiting (may be bloody)
- Diarrhoea
- Black, tarry stools
- Abdominal pain
- Lethargy
- Weakness
- Tremor
- Convulsions

What is ibuprofen?

Ibuprofen is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID). It is commonly used in people for the relief of pain and inflammation associated with aches and pains, headache, cramps and for the relief of mild fever. It is not used in animals.

Sources of ibuprofen

Ibuprofen is available in various forms, including tablets, capsules, syrups, sachets for children, sachets for dissolving in water and drinking and creams for topical pain relief.

Ibuprofen is also available in some products for the symptomatic relief of cold and flu; these products may also contain other drugs.

What are the signs of ibuprofen poisoning?

How is ibuprofen poisoning treated?

- If your dog has eaten ibuprofen – contact your vet immediately.
- If the quantity eaten and your dog’s weight are known it may be possible to determine if a toxic dose has been taken.
- If the ingestion was recent, your vet may induce vomiting to remove some of the ibuprofen from the stomach before it is absorbed.
- Activated charcoal which absorbs toxins may also be given.
- Treatments will include intravenous fluid therapy and monitoring of your dog’s kidney function.
- Your dog may also be prescribed a drug to control vomiting, and drugs to protect the gut and reduce the risk of ulceration. If ulceration has already occurred, ulcer-healing drugs may be prescribed.

Outcome of ibuprofen poisoning

The prognosis is good if treatment is started promptly as this will help prevent the effects on the gut and kidneys.

Prognosis is more guarded in dogs that have pre-existing kidney disease, or are dehydrated. A massive overdose can result in rapid onset severe clinical effects and a poor outcome.