

## General advice

- Store products in their original containers, **out of sight and out of reach** of pets.
- Ensure storage cupboard doors are closed securely.
- Replace the tops of containers securely after use.
- Clean up spills promptly.
- Do not allow your pet to drink the fluid from treated drains, sinks or toilet bowls.
- Always read the directions of household and garden products before use and use as directed.
- Be aware of and understand the hazard warning labels on products.

GHS/CLP Memocard		Savaa	
www.understandthelabel.org.uk		Savaa: Safety and Health	
DANGER		Life-threatening even in small amounts and brief exposure.	Handle with care!
		Causes very serious long-term health effects.	Never swallow or inhale!
WARNING		Causes skin and eye burns.	Avoid skin and eye contact!
		Destruction of metals.	Handle with care!
		Skin and eye irritation. Adverse health effects.	Don't swallow, touch or inhale!
		Damage to the ozone layer.	Avoid release!

Version: 10/12 Always read the label or the Safety Data Sheet and follow the instructions

## 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/ container with you if you are advised to take your pet to the practice.

Contact details for your vet:

COVER PHOTO BY ROB MARQUARDT - FLICKR



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.



**VETERINARY POISONS**  
INFORMATION SERVICE



## PREVENTION OF POISONING IN PETS

### Household products



## Overview

Pets share our home and so are at risk of exposure to a variety of household products and chemicals.

This leaflet describes some of the common household products that are involved in poisoning in pets.

### **BATTERIES**

Batteries that are left lying around or fall out of devices that have been chewed may be eaten by pets. The contents are irritant and may cause a sore mouth and gastrointestinal upset. If eaten whole they may potentially cause a blockage in the gut.

### **BENZALKONIUM CHLORIDE**

Benzalkonium chloride is a common ingredient in household disinfectants and some patio cleaners. Benzalkonium chloride exposure can cause oral inflammation and ulceration, drooling and high body temperature. Effects can be delayed by several hours.

### **DETERGENT CAPSULES FOR WASHING CLOTHES**

These contain concentrated detergents and can burst when wet or bitten. This can result in vomiting, breathing problems, skin and eye irritation and high body temperature.

### **DRAIN AND OVEN CLEANERS**

Some drain cleaners and most oven cleaners contain sodium hydroxide (caustic soda) or potassium hydroxide (caustic potash). These are strong alkalis and can cause severe burns to the skin and other tissues. If eaten they may cause severe burns and swelling of the mouth and throat with drooling, pain and difficulty swallowing or breathing.

### **ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES**

These usually contain nicotine which is toxic in high doses. Although most pets who eat electronic cigarette fluid develop only mild signs (salivation and frothing at the mouth, vomiting, diarrhoea) there is the potential for more serious effects.

### **ETHYLENE GLYCOL ANTIFREEZE**

Ethylene glycol causes kidney failure in cats and dogs. Cats are particularly at risk; the initial signs of toxicity can be subtle and easily missed, and may not be apparent until hours after ingestion. There is an antidote for ethylene glycol poisoning but to be effective it must be started as soon as possible.

### **WHITE SPIRIT**

White spirit is often available when painting and decorating. It is irritant to the skin, eyes and the gut, and can cause oral ulceration, skin inflammation and burns, vomiting and breathing difficulties.

