

Canine Toxins

The below tables are a list of some of the more common toxins that affect our canine patients. It is by no means a comprehensive list and is not meant to substitute appropriate veterinary care. If you think that your pet has become exposed to a toxic or poisonous substance than please call and schedule an appointment with your veterinarian or emergency clinic as soon as possible.

Food / Toxin	Clinical Signs	Treatment	Prognosis
Chocolate (Methylxanthine Derivatives) Potentially Lethal Doses: 8 oz of milk chocolate, 3 oz of chocolate chips, or 1.5 oz of baking chocolate per 10 lbs of body weight	Vomiting, diarrhea, restlessness, increased thirst, seizures	Make dog vomit if ingestion recent (less than 4 hours) and then force feed activated charcoal, supportive care depending on dose and clinical signs.	Excellent if caught early, otherwise dependent on dose and clinical signs seen.
Grapes / Raisins	Abdominal pain, drinking more, peeing more, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy (signs of acute renal failure)	Make dog vomit if ingestion recent (less than 4 hours) and then force feed activated charcoal, intravenous fluid therapy for 2-3 days and monitoring for renal failure.	Good if caught early, guarded if acute renal failure occurs.
Onions	Vomiting, weakness, and pale gums related to destruction of red blood cells	Make dog vomit if ingestion recent (less than 4 hours) and then force feed activated charcoal, supportive care depending on dose and clinical signs.	Excellent with appropriate supportive care.
Xylitol (sugar substitute in sugarless candy / gum/ baking recipes) < 0.1-0.2 g / lb of body weight toxic (~1-2 g per piece of chewing gum)	Signs of hypoglycemia including depression, weakness, seizures, and unconsciousness. May also see signs of liver failure such as vomiting, diarrhea, anorexia, bleeding, increased drinking and peeing.	Make dog vomit if ingestion recent (less than 4 hours) and then force-feed activated charcoal, supportive care depending on dose and clinical signs.	Poor if clinical signs are starting, and guarded if liver failure ensues.
Macadamia Nuts	Weakness, depression, vomiting, diarrhea, staggering, tremors, fever	Make dog vomit if ingestion recent (less than 4 hours) and then force feed activated charcoal, supportive care depending on dose and clinical signs.	Good with appropriate supportive care.

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Rodent Poison (i.e D-Con)	Vomiting and diarrhea may happen on the day of ingestion, and then signs of bleeding 2-7 days after ingestion. Signs of bleeding include pale gums, bruising, blood in urine, feces, vomit or coughing up blood, sudden death.	Make dog vomit if ingestion recent (less than 4 hrs) and force feed activated charcoal, supportive care depending on dose and clinical signs, Vitamin K therapy, and potentially blood products if active bleeding.	Dependent on toxic agent ingested, the amount of agent ingested, and the severity of clinical signs and bleeding.
Anti-Freeze (ethylene glycol)	Clinical signs can start within 30 mins of ingestion or take hours to develop; initially vomiting, ataxia, knuckling, depression, increased thirst with progression to seizures, coma, oral ulceration, decreased urine production.	Make dog vomit if ingestion was recent (less than 2 hours), treatment if 4-methylpyrazole or ethanol if indicated, and then treat supportively	Varies dependent on initiating therapy as soon as possible after ingestion.
Medicines with Decongestants (i.e. pseudoephedrine)	Hyperactivity, trouble breathing, restlessness, dilated eyes, disorientation, vomiting, tachycardia, seizures.	Make dog vomit if ingestion recent (less than 4 hours) and then force-feed activated charcoal, supportive care depending on dose and clinical signs.	Good, if diagnosed and treated early.
Non Steroidal Anti Inflammatory Medicine (i.e. Aleve, Motrin, Aspirin, Advil, Tylenol etc.)	Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea, bleeding depression, seizures, coma	Make dog vomit if ingestion recent (less than 4 hours), gastric lavage, and then force feed activated charcoal, supportive care depending on dose and clinical signs.	Good if diagnosed and eliminated from the GI tract early and treated, otherwise dependent on dose and time before being diagnosed and treated.
Insecticides – (Organophosphates and Carbamates)	Vomiting, diarrhea, excessive salivation, abdominal pain, frequent urination or incontinence, increased respiration, anxiety, seizures, coma.	If oral intoxication make dog vomit if ingestion recent (less than 4 hours), and then force feed activated charcoal. If topical administration wash dog to remove substance immediately. Supportive care depends on dose and clinical signs.	Fair to good if diagnosed early and treated appropriately. Otherwise depends on dose and timing of intervention.