

# OR CAT BE A VICTIM

Many people are surprised at the items in this leaflet because they are generally day-to-day items in plain sight that you wouldn't have considered dangerous.

Please take note and make sure your pet does not get access to any of the following substances. If you think they have, then follow our advice in the section 'I think my pet has been poisoned' on the back of this leaflet.



## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK MY PET HAS BEEN POISONED?

**S.P.E.E.D.** is key, follow the acronym below and act immediately. NEVER just wait and see as there may only be a small window in which treatment can be given to help your pet and often this may be before any symptoms have started showing.

Put the attached Emergency Action card somewhere where all the family will see it, such as on your fridge or pinboard.

**IN CASE OF PET POISONING**

EMERGENCY ACTION EMERGENCY ACTION

If you think your dog or cat has eaten poison, **S.P.E.E.D.** is of the essence!

- S** Stop the pet from eating any more suspected poison
- P** Phone the vets (see over)
- E** Emergency appointment
- E** Evidence - Bring labels/samples/vomit (in a safe manner)
- D** Don't delay!

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Check out our website at [www.tvm-uk.com](http://www.tvm-uk.com)

Follow us @petdangers for information updates and FAQs.

Use Medicines Responsibly ([www.noah.co.uk/responsible](http://www.noah.co.uk/responsible)).  
For further information please contact TVM UK, Crown House, Gloucester Road, Redhill RH1 1FH. [www.tvm-uk.com](http://www.tvm-uk.com)

# PET KILLERS!

BEWARE OF THE DANGERS HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT



# DON'T LET YOUR DOG

## PART OF OWNING PETS IS KNOWING HOW TO KEEP THEM SAFE

There are many items around the house that can be highly toxic and deadly to dogs, even in very small quantities.

## POSSIBLE SUSPECTS

- 1 CHOCOLATE**  
Chocolate is extremely poisonous to dogs and cats as their bodies cannot deal with the theobromine and caffeine content unlike ours. Keep chocolate away from pets at all times. If your pet eats chocolate they will need to go to the vets immediately to make them sick. However, leave it too long and it will be absorbed and treatment will be more complicated and expensive.
- 2 E-CIGARETTES**  
Since the popularity of these devices has increased, so have the cases of poisoned dogs. Chewing the cigarette or refill can cause life-threatening nicotine poisoning, a rapidly acting toxin that needs immediate veterinary attention.
- 3 XYLITOL**  
Did you know that there are many campaigns to try and stop companies from putting xylitol in products. It is an artificial sweetener found in products like chewing gum, mints and toothpastes, that can cause severe illness and death in dogs when eaten.
- 4 PLANTS AND FLOWERS**  
Many indoor and outdoor plants can be poisonous to dogs and cats if eaten. Visit the 'Poisoning' section on [www.tvm-uk.com](http://www.tvm-uk.com) to find out more.

# POSSIBLE SUSPECTS...

## 1 GRAPES AND RAISINS

Did you know grapes and raisins are poisonous to dogs? The number that create toxicity varies between each dog; for some it may be a handful, for others just one. Never take the risk with your dog. Don't forget foods that contain these ingredients are just as dangerous, such as fruit cake and Christmas cakes.

## 2 APPLES

Apple seeds contain amygdalin, which is a form of cyanide. If your dog swallows a few apple seeds, they will most likely pass through without harm – but if they swallow more, or crunch them to break the covering, this could result in poisoning. If you do feed apples, core and cut them into bite-sized chunks first.

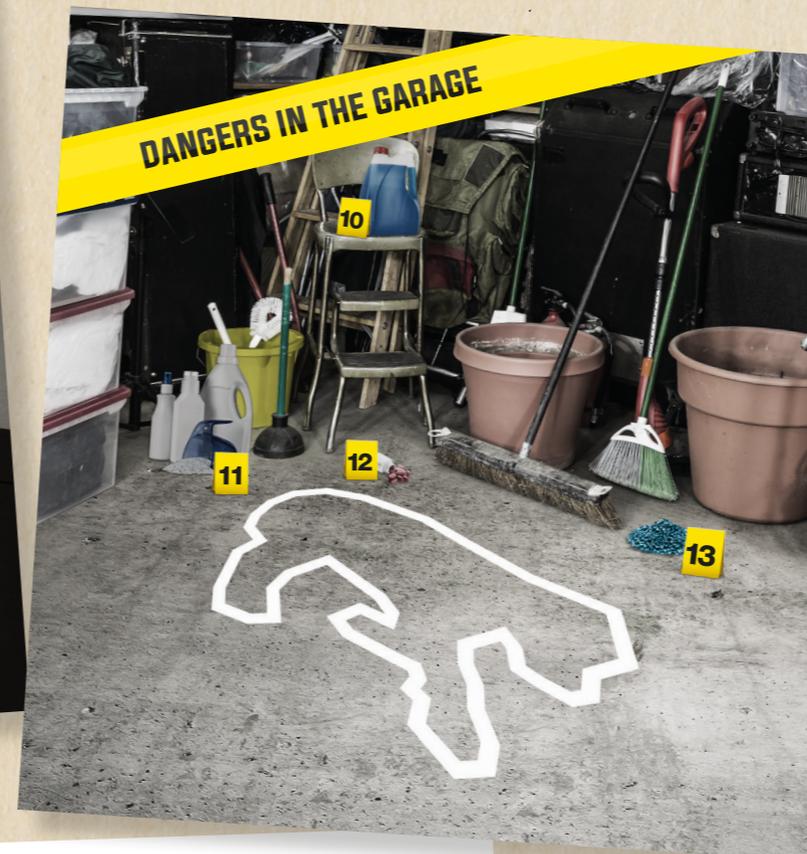
## 3 HUMAN MEDICATION

One of the highest causes of accidental poisoning is dogs eating their owners' medication or owners giving their pets human medication to try and help them. Even over the counter medications that are safe for us can kill your pet, so never take the risk and always seek advice from your vet if your pet is unwell for any reason. Always keep human medication out of the reach of prying paws.

## 4 ONIONS AND GARLIC

When eaten in only moderate amounts or routinely, these foods actually cause problems with blood cells and anaemia (low red blood cells).

If your pet gets to a pan cooking these substances it could result in poisoning. Garlic pills and powders should be avoided for the same reason and specialist pet poison centres recommend that you do not give these products.



## TAKE CARE AT CERTAIN TIMES OF YEAR LIKE CHRISTMAS AND EASTER!

- Tinsel and baubles (can cause severe internal damage).
- Increased chocolate and raisin containing foods (mince pies, Christmas cake).
- Increased visitors who aren't aware of the dangers of certain items.

## 5 MOULD

If your pet eats mouldy food from bins, food found outside or eats from the compost heap they will be at serious risk of poisoning from mycotoxins. Indeed, cases have even been reported from licking the inside of a bread bin that had mould inside. Always keep mouldy items away from pets.

## 6 CLEANERS

Most cleaners and detergents (including laundry pods) can cause serious problems if eaten by your pet. Always keep them out of the reach and sight of pets (and children).

## 7 ANTIFREEZE

How many of us use antifreeze to add to our windscreen wash or as a de-icer spray? The harmful substance in antifreeze is called ethylene glycol and is also found in other products such as radiator coolant, motor oils, hydraulic brake fluid, paints and solvents. As little as one tablespoon of antifreeze can cause kidney failure in a dog and as little as one teaspoon can kill a cat.

## 8 RAT POISON

The most commonly used class of rat poison in the UK is what is called an 'anticoagulant' poison. It stops the blood from clotting and causes the rat to bleed to death. Unfortunately, the same symptoms can occur in any animal that eats it. There is an antidote to rat poisoning but your dog must be seen by a vet quickly for the best chance of a complete recovery.

## 9 SLUG BAIT

Be careful not to put any slug bait where it can be eaten by your pet. Slug bait is commonly found as pellets, liquid or powder and contains the toxic ingredient 'metaldehyde'. It is often also sweetened which makes it attractive to our pets. Slug bait is highly poisonous to dogs and cats.