

My Pet Has Eaten Something Poisonous – What Should I Do?

Family Matters

Every pet guardian dreads hearing the words:

"I think they've eaten something they shouldn't."

Whether it's medication, a household chemical, a poisonous plant or something you've dropped on the floor, it's natural to panic.

The good news is that many pets recover completely when treatment is started early.

At Amity, we believe that staying calm and acting quickly gives your pet the best chance of a positive outcome. Our purpose is to **Empower You Through Education**, helping you know exactly what to do if poisoning is ever suspected.

What Can Poison Pets?

Many everyday items are harmless to us but dangerous for our pets.

Common poisons include:

- Human medications.
- Chocolate.
- Grapes and raisins.
- Xylitol (found in some sugar-free chewing gum and sweets).
- Certain lilies (especially dangerous for cats).
- Rat poison.
- Slug pellets.
- Antifreeze.
- Household cleaning products.
- Cannabis and recreational drugs.

The list is much longer than most people realise.

What Should I Do First?

If you think your pet has eaten something poisonous, **contact your veterinary practice immediately.**

Don't wait for symptoms to appear.

The information that helps us most includes:

- What your pet has eaten.
- Approximately how much.
- When it happened.
- Your pet's weight.
- Whether they are showing any signs of illness.

If possible, bring the packaging or take a photograph of it. This often provides valuable information about the ingredients involved.

Don't Try Home Remedies

One of the biggest mistakes people make is searching online for ways to make their pet vomit.

This can sometimes be dangerous.

Not every poison should be brought back up. Some substances can cause even more damage if vomited, while others may be inhaled into the lungs.

Likewise, giving milk, bread, oil or other home remedies is rarely helpful and may delay the treatment your pet actually needs.

The safest first step is always to seek veterinary advice.

What Signs Might Develop?

The symptoms depend entirely on what has been eaten.

They may include:

- Vomiting or diarrhoea.
- Drooling.
- Tremors.
- Seizures.
- Weakness.
- Difficulty breathing.
- Pale gums.
- Collapse.
- Drinking more than usual.
- Unusual behaviour.

Some poisons cause signs within minutes.

Others may take hours or even days before your pet appears unwell.

That is why **the absence of symptoms doesn't necessarily mean everything is fine.**

Early Treatment Can Make All the Difference

If your pet is seen soon after eating a poison, we may be able to prevent much of it from being absorbed.

Depending on the situation, treatment may involve making your pet vomit, giving activated charcoal to reduce absorption, administering intravenous fluids, providing antidotes for certain poisons, or monitoring them in hospital.

The earlier we intervene, the more options we usually have.

When in Doubt, Ask

At Amity, we'd always rather speak to a worried guardian than have someone wait until their pet becomes seriously ill.

If it turns out not to be poisonous, that's wonderful.

If it is, you've acted quickly.

Either way, you've done the right thing.

Because emergencies aren't about knowing all the answers.

They're about knowing when to ask for help.

Because they're not just your pet.

They're family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.