If Your Pet Gets Into Poison

If your pet gets into a drug or poison, you should call your veterinarian immediately. There are six important questions you should do your best to know the answers to before you call. Write down the information below so you can tell your veterinarian.

1. What did the pet get into? Write down the name of the product and the active ingredients if they are listed.

2. How much did the pet get into?

3. Did the animal swallow it or get it in their eyes or on their skin?

4. How long ago was it?

5. How is your pet acting?

6. How long has it been acting that way?

If the pet has swallowed a potential poison, your veterinarian may want you to try some things at home before the animal is brought into the clinic.

- Drugs that cause vomiting available in most homes include:
  - Syrup of ipecac 7%; your veterinarian will tell you how much to give
  - Hydrogen peroxide 3%; 1 teaspoonful orally

- If your animal does not vomit after giving these, do not give them again unless your veterinarian tells you to.

- If the animal has gotten the poison in its eyes or on its skin, you should immediately wash the animal with lots of warm water or flush the eyes with a preservative free contact lens rinsing solution.

- If the animal is seizing (convulsing), you should try to help protect the animal from injuring itself by removing lamps, tables, chairs and other objects that it could hurt itself on. Do not put your hands in or near the animal's mouth. Your pet will not swallow its tongue during the seizure, but it may unintentionally bite you if you put your hands in its mouth.

- You should get your pet to a veterinary clinic as soon as possible.

- Bring whatever container is available of the poison and any vomit that was produced.

- If your veterinarian tells you it is okay to make your pet vomit (i.e., not unconscious, not seizing (convulsions), not drowsy, able to gag, and the poison is not a corrosive toxin or petroleum distillate) then you can induce vomiting.

- Save the vomit by placing in a zip-loc bag or other clean and sealable container. If vomiting could worsen the poison effects, your veterinarian may want you to administer milk or water to dilute the poison.