Prevention of grape poisoning

- Do not give any grapes, raisins, sultanas or currants, or foods containing these fruits, to your pet.
- Prevent children from feeding these foods to your pets.
- Put your shopping away as soon as you get home.
- Store foods securely to prevent access.
- Be aware of other foodstuffs that contain these fruits, such as hot cross buns, mince pies, fruit cake (including Christmas cake), Christmas pudding, chocolates and chocolate-coated raisins (there is also a risk of chocolate poisoning with these).
- If baking, try to prevent access to any cakes, biscuits or brownies that contain these dried fruits and are cooling. Once cool, store securely.

What to do if you think your pet has been poisoned

EMERGENCY ADVICE

- **Call Animal PoisonLine on 01202 509000 even if your pet is showing no signs to find out whether a trip to the vet is required.**
- **Remove your pet from the source of poison.**
- **Do not try to make your pet vomit – NEVER give salt water.**
- **Collect the poison and take a sample/ container with you if you are advised to take your pet to the vet practice.**

Animal POISONLine 24hr advice for owners

01202 509000

www.animalpoisonline.co.uk
24 hours a day (charges apply)

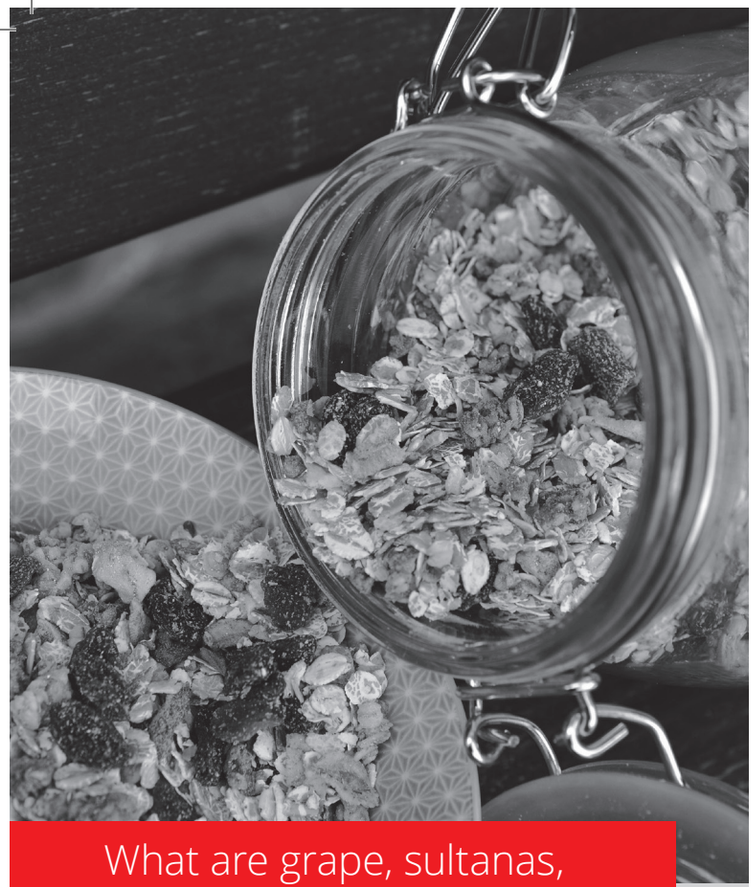
VETERINARY POISONS INFORMATION SERVICE

Animal PoisonLine is run by the VPIS, the UK's only animal poison centre, which has provided advice to vets on the management of poisoning in animals for over 25 years.

Animal POISONLine 24hr advice for owners

01202 509000

POISONING FROM GRAPES AND THEIR DRIED FRUITS



What are grape, sultanas, raisins and currants?

Sultanas are the dried fruit of a white grape, and raisin and currants are the dried fruit of dark grapes.

It is not known why or how grapes, sultanas, raisins or currants cause poisoning. Also the toxic dose of grapes or dried fruit is unknown; poisoning has been reported to occur after the ingestion of only a few grapes in a small dog.

Sources of grapes and dried fruit

Grapes are popular fruit, and there are numerous foodstuffs that contain their dried fruit, including hot cross buns, mince pies, fruit cake (including Christmas cake), Christmas pudding, chocolates and chocolate-coated raisins (there is also the risk of chocolate poisoning from these). Dried fruit is also available for snacking and baking. Pomace or marc, the waste after pressing grapes, has also caused poisoning in dogs.

What are the signs of grape poisoning?

Grapes, raisins, sultanas and currants cause kidney failure in dogs. There may be initial gastrointestinal signs followed by kidney failure after a few days.

The clinical signs of grape poisoning can include:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Abnormal drinking or urination
- Lethargy
- Inappetence
- Weakness

What to do if your pet has eaten grapes

- If your pet has eaten grapes, raisins, sultanas or currants – contact your vet immediately.
- Your vet may need to call the Veterinary Poisons Information Service for appropriate treatment advice.
- Treatments will include aggressive intravenous fluid therapy and monitoring of your dog's kidney function.

Outcome of grape poisoning

The prognosis is good if treatment is started promptly as this will protect the kidneys.

Prognosis is more guarded in pets that go to the vet surgery later and already have signs of kidney damage.