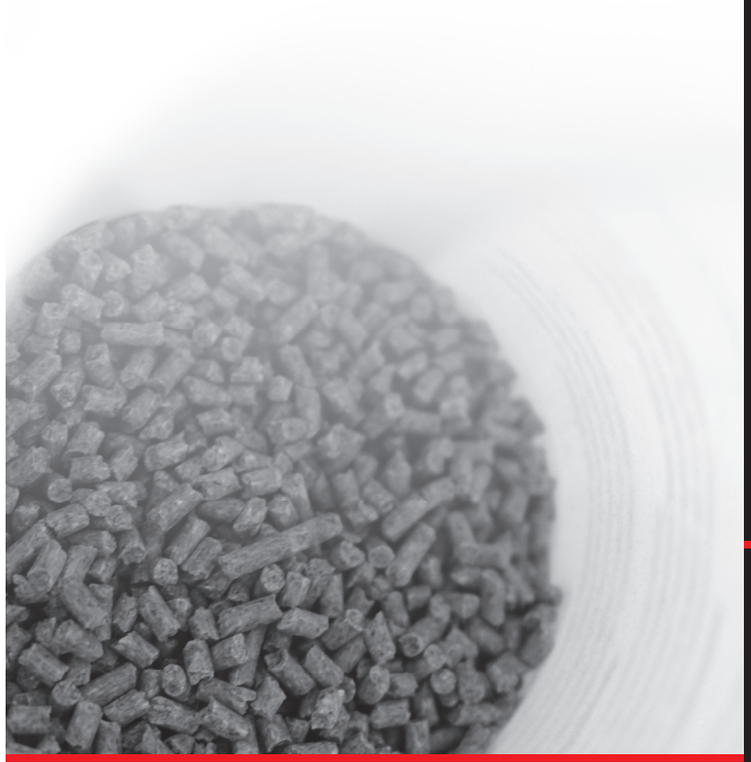
Prevention of metaldehyde poisoning

- Store garden pesticides and products in their original containers, out of sight and out of reach of pets.
- Replace the tops of containers securely after use.
- Read the label carefully and use the product as directed.
- If your dog regularly eats things in the garden, do not use metaldehyde-containing slug pellets but try other means of slug and snail control.
- Choose plants for your garden that are less attractive to slugs and snails.



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)

COVER PHOTO BY MAX BARNERS

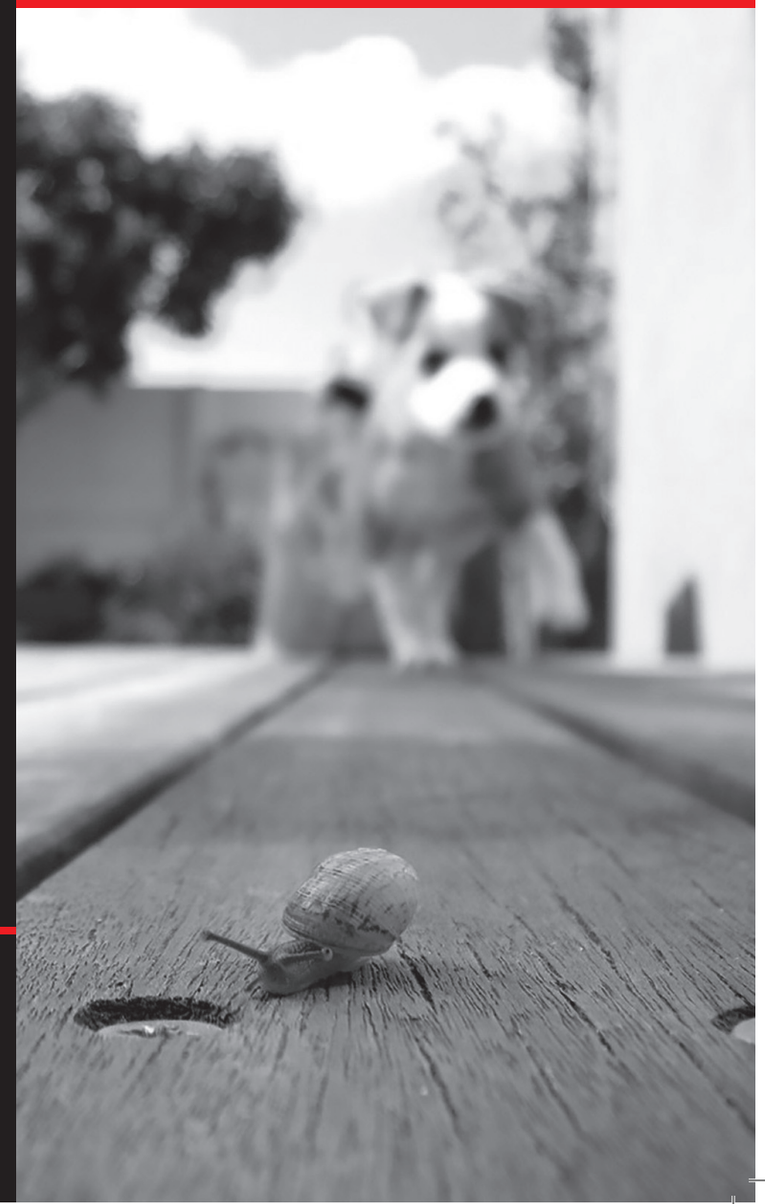
VETERINARY POISONS INFORMATION SERVICE

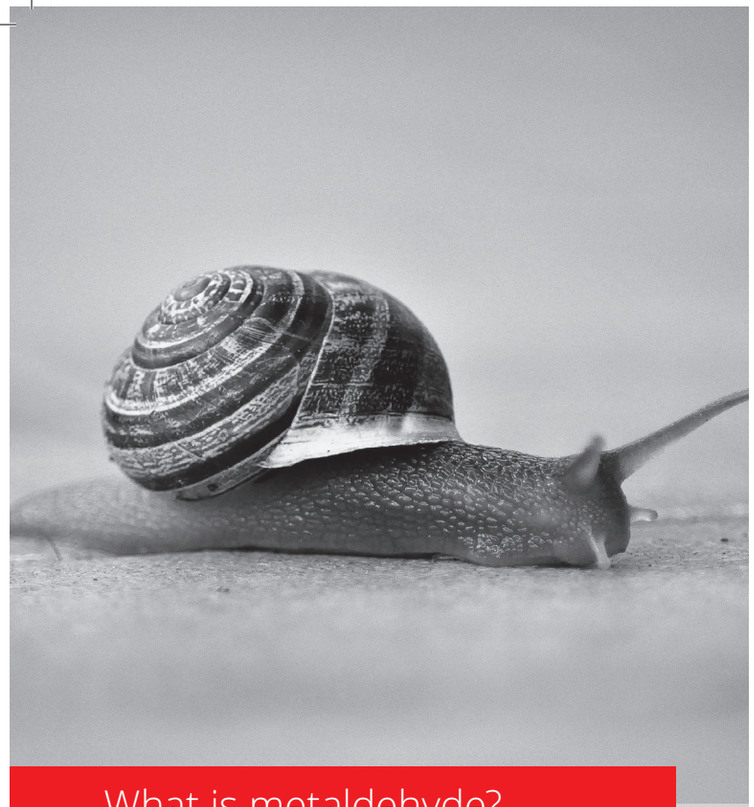
Animal PoisonLine is run by the VPIS, the UK's only animal poison centre, which has provided advice to vets on the management of poisoning in animals for over 25 years.

Animal POISONLine 24hr advice for owners

01202 509000

METALDEHYDE SLUG AND SNAIL BAIT





What is metaldehyde?

Metaldehyde is used to control garden snails and slugs, and is the active ingredient in many products. It is available in small blue-green pellets for scattering around plants.

Sources of metaldehyde

pets may be exposed to metaldehyde through access to the container or from eating the pellets from the garden. Most cases occur in the early summer when slugs and snails are common in the garden.

What are the signs of metaldehyde poisoning?

Metaldehyde ingestion can result in tremors and convulsions. These effects can occur quickly after ingestion, often within a few hours. The convulsions can last for many hours.

The clinical signs of metaldehyde poisoning can include:

- Drooling
- Vomiting
- Wobbliness
- Diarrhoea (may be bluey-green)
- Panting
- Tremor
- Convulsions
- High body temperature

What to do if your pet has eaten metaldehyde

- If your pets has been exposed to metaldehyde – contact Animal PoisonLine who will advise you whether you need to take your pet to the vet.
- If your pet needs to see the vet, treatment may include:
  - Drugs to control the tremors and convulsions.
  - Sedatives or an anaesthetic for many hours.
  - Cooling measures may be required to lower the body temperature.

Outcome of metaldehyde poisoning

Pets can die from metaldehyde poisoning, but the prognosis of metaldehyde poisoning is good if treatment is started promptly and convulsions are controlled.

Pets with complications from uncontrolled convulsions have a poor prognosis.