General advice

- Store products in their original containers, **out of sight and out of reach** of pets.
- Ensure storage cupboard doors are closed securely.
- Replace the tops of containers securely after use.
- Always read the directions of household and garden products before use and use as directed.
- Clean up spills promptly.
- Do not allow your pet to walk through spills or puddles of pesticide products.
- Do not allow your pet to drink from watering cans if they contain a garden product.

PHTO BY PETER ORGANISCIAK - FLICKR

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

PESTICIDES AND GARDEN PRODUCTS

Overview

Pets share our home and garden and so are at risk of exposure to a variety of garden products and substances.

This leaflet describes some of the common garden products that are involved in poisoning in pets.

BENZALKONIUM CHLORIDE

Benzalkonium chloride is a common ingredient in household disinfectants and some patio cleaners. Benzalkonium chloride exposure can cause oral inflammation and ulceration, drooling and high body temperature. Effects can be delayed by several hours.

COMPOST

Compost heaps are full of moulds that break down the vegetation to form the compost. Some moulds produce toxic compounds that can cause tremors and convulsions if eaten.

FERTILIZERS

Fertilizers, including bonemeal, are commonly used in spring and autumn and, although of relatively low toxicity, they can cause gastrointestinal upset and irritation to the skin.

GLYPHOSATE

Glyphosate is the active ingredient in many weed killers. It is irritant and can cause gastrointestinal signs and sometimes more severe poisoning such as breathing problems, convulsions and low heart rate.

INSECTICIDES

There are a huge number of products available to control insect pests, including ant baits, fly sprays and bug sprays for plants. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and precautions to limit exposure to pets.

LAWN FEED, WEED AND MOSS KILLERS

These generally contain fertilizers (see above), weed killers and ferrous sulphate (iron) to kill moss. All the chemicals are irritant and can cause gastrointestinal upset and there is also the risk of iron poisoning which can result in severe gastrointestinal signs, shock and liver failure.

SLUG KILLERS

These can contain a variety of ingredients. Many products contain **metaldehyde** and this can cause tremors and convulsions which can start soon after ingestion. Some products contain ferric phosphate which can potentially cause iron poisoning with significant gastrointestinal upset.

WEED KILLERS

A variety of products are available to control weeds, including glyphosate (see above). It is important to follow the manufacturer's instructions and precautions to limit exposure to pets.