Prevention of xylitol poisoning

- Be aware of products containing xylitol and store these securely to prevent access.
- Do not leave chewing gum lying around the home (or in an unsecured handbag).
- Do not give any xylitol-containing products to your dog.
- Be careful if you order chewing gums or foodstuffs through the post – do not allow your dog free access to material delivered by post.
- If using xylitol in baking, try to prevent access to any cakes or biscuits that are cooling. Once cool store securely.
- Do not allow your dog to lick the spoon or bowl used in baking xylitol-containing products.
- Prevent children from feeding xylitol-containing products to your pets

PHOTO BY ROBBY-T - 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)

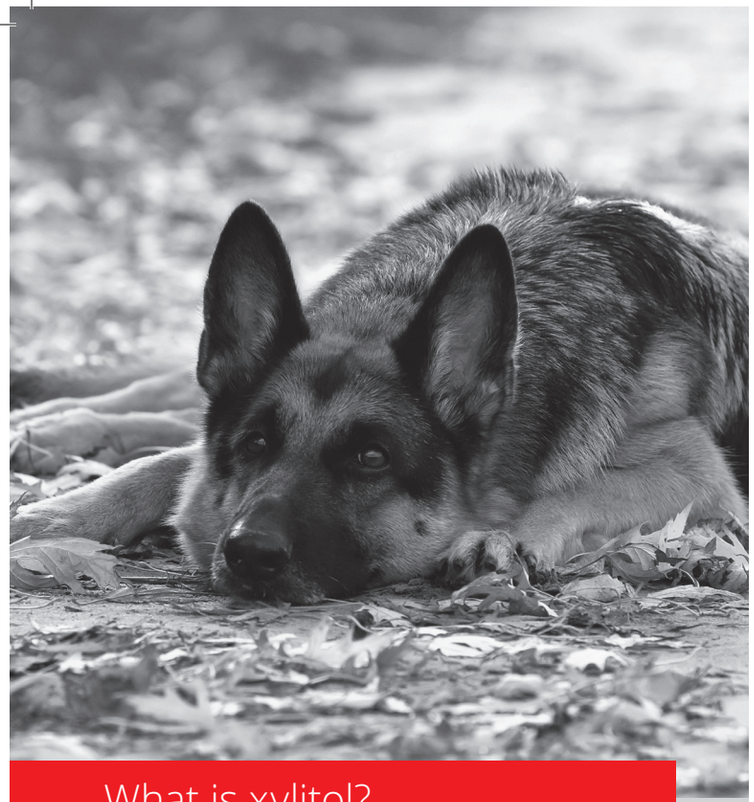
VETERINARY POISONS INFORMATION SERVICE

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

XYLITOL POISONING IN DOGS



What is xylitol?

Xylitol is a sugar substitute and is found in numerous products. It is popular in people with diabetes or on low-carbohydrate diets. It has antibacterial properties and is therefore also found in dental hygiene products and chewing gum.

The amount of xylitol found in different products is very variable, but even 1-2 pieces of gum may be enough to cause toxic effects in a small dog.

Xylitol may be listed in the ingredients list of a product by its food additive code E967.

Sources of xylitol

Xylitol is found in numerous products including sugar-free chewing gum, sweets and foods. It is also available in granulated form for baking.

What are the signs of xylitol poisoning?

Clinical signs of xylitol poisoning may be rapid in onset or delayed. Xylitol has two main toxic effects. It induces the release of insulin in the body resulting in low blood sugar and can also cause liver damage.

The clinical signs of xylitol poisoning can include:

- Vomiting
- Signs of low blood sugar (lethargy and weakness)
- Collapse
- Convulsions
- Coma
- Liver damage

What to do if your dog has eaten xylitol

- If your dog has eaten xylitol – Contact Animal PoisonLine who will advise you if you need to go to the vet for treatment.
- If the quantity eaten and your dog's weight are known it will be possible to determine if a toxic dose has been taken.
- If you do need to go to the vet, they will monitor your dog's blood sugar levels and liver function.
- Treatments may include intravenous fluid therapy and small meals to prevent the blood sugar falling too low.
- Drugs may be given to correct the blood sugar, prevent further vomiting, control convulsions and protect the liver.

Outcome of xylitol poisoning

The prognosis is good if the low blood sugar is treated promptly.

Prognosis is more guarded in dogs that develop severe signs such as coma or convulsions or those that develop liver toxicity. Not all dogs that eat xylitol develop liver failure.