



COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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PETS AND LAWN CHEMICALS

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This fact sheet covers symptoms of insecticide and phenoxy herbicide poisonings, what to do if pesticide poisonings occur, and what should be included in a pet first aid kit.

<http://www.cepep.colostate.edu>

Pets and Lawn Chemicals

The pesticides we apply to our lawns and gardens are potentially hazardous to our pets. Exposure occurs most commonly when pets are allowed on treated lawn before the pesticide application has been allowed to dry. Pets can absorb pesticides through their paws or lick it off their bodies. In addition, pets can be exposed to pesticides when they eat grass. Exposure also occurs when pesticide containers are left unattended, spills are not cleaned up promptly, or baits are put out. When pesticide poisoning is suspected, prompt action will help your pet survive.

Be sure to store pesticides where pets have no access to them. After treating lawns and outside areas, restrict pets from the areas until pesticides have dried and the danger of exposure has passed. Follow the restricted-entry interval (REI) as stated on the label.

Symptoms of insecticide poisoning:

- Excessive salivation
- Tearing of the eyes
- Excessive urination
- Muscle twitching
- Weakness
- Difficult breathing
- Collapse



Symptoms of phenoxy herbicide poisoning:

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Weakness
- Dizziness
- Unsteady gait

Repeated exposure to phenoxy herbicides (example: 2,4-D) may affect the liver, kidneys, gastrointestinal tract and skeletal muscles. Some pesticides contain chlorophenoxy acids and are poisonous to the blood, leading to anemia, neutropenia (low white blood cell count), thrombocytopenia (low platelet count), and feline distemper.

If pesticide poisoning occurs:

1. Keep the animal warm and quiet
2. Identify chemical(s) applied
3. Determine likely exposure
 - Diluted or concentrated product
 - Concentration
 - Application rate
 - Time elapsed since application
4. Obtain toxicity information
 - Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [Understanding the MSDS](#))
 - Label – locate EPA registration number (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [The Pesticide Label](#))
5. Save vomit for possible analysis
6. Call your veterinarian and follow his/her instructions. The vet may want you to administer first aid so have a Pet First Aid Kit available

Pet First Aid Kit

- Fresh 3% hydrogen peroxide
- Can of soft food
- Turkey baster, bulb syringe, or large medicine syringe
- Saline eye solution
- Mild dishwashing liquid
- Rubber gloves
- Muzzle
- Pet carrier

National Animal Poison Control Center

24-hour emergency 888-4ANI-HELP (888-426-4435)

(a consultation fee per case may apply)

References and Resources

Hansen, S., Poppenga, R. and Knight, M. April 16 1997. *Diagnosis and Management of Pesticide Exposures with a Focus on Pet/Household Insecticides and Lawn Chemicals*. ABVT, ASPCA/National Animal Poison Control Center Toxicology Conference.

K-State Professors Offer Lawn Chemical Safety Tips for Pets. May 2000. K-State Media Relations and Marketing, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS.

<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?c=22&aid=1261>

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