

Top 10 Deadliest Toxins

5-Fluorouracil

Found in topical skin cancer treatments that may be licked off their owners' skin by pets or ingested from the product containers themselves. Exposures may result in bloody vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, anemia and death. Of the dogs that ingest 5-FU, 64% die or are euthanized.

Amphetamines

Found in prescription ADHD and weight loss medications, and also available as illicit drugs. Exposures can result in hypertension, tachycardia, ataxia, agitation, tremors and seizures in pets.

Blue Green Algae

Cyanobacteria that can be found in large amounts in lakes, ponds and rivers and may appear to be "scum" on top of the water. Toxic blooms occur following warm, sunny weather especially in ponds with runoff from fertilized fields or pastured animals. Ingestion can cause vomiting and diarrhea, neurologic signs and liver failure.

Hops

Definitely a concern for home brewers and sometimes even in supplements. Ingestion of hops (*Humulus lupulus*) by dogs causes their body temperature to skyrocket. Signs can be seen within hours. Dogs become agitated and begin to pant. Their body temperature can get high enough to kill them—up to 108 degrees Fahrenheit.

Metaldehyde

The active ingredient in some snail and slug baits that can cause vomiting, tremors, seizures and death.

5-HTP

5-Hydroxytryptophan

A serotonergic over-the-counter medication can cause depression, vomiting, anorexia, ataxia, muscle tremors, arrhythmia, hypertension and serotonin syndrome in exposed pets.

Baclofen

Pets may ingest their owners' prescription medication and develop vomiting, ataxia, vocalization or disorientation, and potentially, the life-threatening signs of slow breathing/heart rate, respiratory arrest and seizures, possibly leading to death.

Calcium Channel Blockers

Diltiazem, Amlodipine, Verapamil, Nifedipine, etc.

Prescription medications used in people and pets to lower blood pressure, treat chest pain and irregular heartbeat; as a class, they have a low margin of safety and rapid onset of signs such as vomiting, lethargy, depression, ataxia, severe hypotension, bradycardia, hyperglycemia and electrolyte abnormalities may occur.

Lamotrigine

Prescription anticonvulsant medication—can cause vomiting, lethargy or hyperactivity, tremors, heart rate abnormalities and seizures.

Methomyl

The active ingredient in some fly baits that can cause signs within 30 minutes of ingestion; signs include salivation, vomiting, ataxia, weakness, seizures and death.

For more information,
please visit aspc.org/apcc

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Animal Poison Control Center