

## Emergency Tips for Pet Owners

When a pet may have been exposed to or ingested a hazardous chemical, pet owners must act quickly by:

- Watching for symptoms of poisoning, including:
  - unexplained vomiting
  - difficulty breathing
  - unusual drooling
  - burns around or in the mouth
  - unusual behavior
  - convulsions or unconsciousness
- Knowing if your pet is actually in trouble. A little drooling might just mean your pet is happy to see you. Unusual drooling, unexplained vomiting, frothing at the mouth, redness or burns in the mouth, difficulty breathing, unusual behavior, convulsions or unconsciousness may indicate that your animal is in trouble.
- Remembering it is a race against the clock and the overall goal is to stop the poison from being absorbed into the animal's system. Call as soon as possible. If you call within 5 – 10 minutes of ingestion, a veterinarian may direct you to induce vomiting to minimize harm. But, if you wait a few hours to see how the animal reacts, it may be too late. Also, be able to tell the veterinarian how long ago the poison was ingested.
- Identifying what the chemical is and how much of it the animal has been exposed to. Have product labels handy. Expect to tell the veterinarian what your pet ingested. If it was a medication, know the generic name of the drug and how many milligrams (mg) were in each tablet. Be able to tell how much your pet weighs.
- With the original container handy, call a veterinarian, the local poison control center or K-State's poison control hot line at 785-532-5679 as soon as possible. Be patient. The person who answers the phone may have to page the veterinarian on call, and this may take several minutes.
- Wait until the veterinarian or the poison control center has given instructions before taking any medical action. Always have hydrogen peroxide on hand, but **DO NOT** administer without instructions from the veterinarian or the poison control center.
- Remember that veterinarians field emergency calls from across the country, night and day. K-State's free service is staffed by on-call veterinarians who also maintain regular veterinary responsibilities at K-State along with their teaching and research duties. For that reason, the hotline calls should be for real concerns and not employed frivolously.