



Cane Toad Poisoning

The Cane Toad is an invasive pest in Australia, and particularly in Queensland. A Cane Toad's defence mechanism is the ability to secrete a toxin from their skin. This can poison your pet. Animals are curious and will commonly approach and often play with them in their mouths, resulting in potential poisoning. Cane Toad Poisoning can be fatal to animals, so seek Veterinary advice immediately

How do I know if my pet has been poisoned?

Your pet will show signs within minutes of being poisoned by a toad. Some or all of the following signs may be seen;

- Profuse salivation
- Bright red gums
- They may feel hot to touch
- Unsteadiness in the legs, often resulting in collapse
- Crying and pawing at the mouth
- Seizures
- Breathing problems
- Flickering eyes

Is there an effective treatment for Cane Toad Poisoning?

If you suspect your pet has been poisoned, or you see your pet playing with a cane toad, you should wash the mouth out with copious amounts of water immediately. Do NOT use a hose to wash the animal's mouth; instead use a bucket of water and a sponge/washcloth. Wipe out the gums, the roof of the mouth, tongue and insides the cheeks. Continue wiping the mouth out for 5 minutes but take care not to get bitten.

Seek Veterinary advice once you have washed their mouth. If symptoms persist veterinary intervention may be necessary to administer medications and supportive therapies to reduce the effects of the toxin.

What happens when my pet comes home?

If your pet requires hospitalization, remember that when they come home, they are not completely recovered. The Cane Toad toxin affects their cardiovascular system (heart and blood vessels), interfering with the heart's rate and rhythm. Sudden extra demands on the heart may lead to a heart attack. To help prevent this restrict exercise, stress and excitement, and keep them cool during their recovery. To prevent reoccurrence it may be necessary to keep your pet indoors at night during the warmer months

Cane Toad Poisoning is a potentially fatal Emergency, seek Veterinary Advice immediately

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