Chemical Poisoning

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Objectives

- Recognize situations where chemical poisoning poses the greatest risk for animals
- List chemical poisons that animals encounter most commonly
- Recognize substances that contain chemical poisons
- Discuss sources of assistance to consult when poisoning occurs
Chemical Poisoning
- Usually negligence
- Entices animals and kids
- Exposure
  - Oral (lick, eat)
- Symptoms similar to infectious diseases
- Know poison source
  - Treatment quicker
  - More effective treatment
Common Poisonings

- Arsenic
  - Most common
  - Found in
    - Weed killers
    - Cotton defoliants
    - Wood preservatives
    - Machinery grease
    - Rat bait
    - Insecticides
- Symptoms
  - Weakness
  - Loss of coordination
  - Abdominal pain
  - Diarrhea
  - Paralysis

- Small dose
  - Recover with supportive treatment

- Large dose
  - Death
Lead

Found in
- Batteries
- Lead-containing paint
- Crankcase oil

Consumption
- Large amounts at once
- Small amounts over time stored in body
- **Species**
  - Dogs
  - Cattle

- **Affects**
  - Central nervous system
  - Digestive system

- **Symptoms**
  - Staggering
  - Grinding of teeth
  - Blindness
  - Diarrhea
  - Convulsive seizures
Oxalates

- Found in
  - Plants
  - Rust removers
  - Bleaches
  - Tanning compounds
- Affects urinary system
- Symptoms
  - Difficult breathing
  - Depression
  - Coma
  - Death
Salt

- Excess salt, lack of water
- Species (common due to diet)
  - Cattle
  - Swine
  - Poultry
Symptoms

- Off feed
- Wander around
- Unsteady walk
- Cattle
  - Drag hind feed
  - Paralysis
  - Seizures
- Swine
  - Convulsions
  - Lose consciousness
- Death
Ethylene Glycol

- Antifreeze
- Species
  - Dogs
  - Cats
- Sweet taste
  - Drink
Symptoms

Stage 1 (1-12 hours)
- Increased water consumption
- Increased urination
- Drunken appearance

Stage 2
- Kidneys metabolize chemicals
  - Kidney damage
- Depression
- Failure to eat
- Coma
- Death
Treatable within first hours

- Dialysis
- Induce vomiting
- Sodium bicarbonate
  - Absorb chemical
Polychlorinated Biphenyl Compounds (PCBs)

- Found in
  - Insulating fluids
  - Printing inks
  - Sealants
  - Paints

- Oral or direct contact
  - Collect in body fat
Symptoms
- Weight loss
- Skin disorders
- Reproductive problems

Treatment
- None

Prevention
- Remove sources
Poisoning Assistance

- Contact poison information center
  - By area
  - ASPCA
    - 1-888-426-4435