



HUMAN MEDICINES, PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS AND THE DANGER THEY POSE TO YOUR DOG

When your dog is in pain, your first instinct as a caring owner will be to try and relieve him of it. If you know that a simple muscle strain or bruising is the problem, you may be reluctant to pay for a veterinary consultation.

It is quite common to hear people say that it's okay to give your dog human medicine such as painkillers, so long as you give a child's dose or less. **However, this misconception could sentence your dog to permanent damage to his organs or even a painful and unnecessary death.**

Common painkillers such as **Paracetamol, Aspirin** and other non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAID's) such as **Ibuprofen** are all capable of causing great harm if given to dogs and other pets. Ibuprofen is particularly dangerous for dogs and a dose which would be safe for a human would cause toxicity in a dog.

Canine and human physiologies are not the same and medicines are metabolised in different ways. Ibuprofen has a longer half-life in dogs, staying in the dog's body for longer than it does in man. As a result, the toxic effects on the dog are significantly increased.

If you give Ibuprofen to a dog, or he manages to get to some around the home, the effects can be disastrous. The commonest effect of an overdose is intense ulceration of the stomach wall and intestinal tract, with perforation of the stomach being common in acute cases. Symptoms include vomiting and diarrhoea (both showing signs of blood staining) and excessive thirst and urination as the dog's body tries to rid itself of the poison. However, if the dog has reached the stage of showing these symptoms, it is often too late and if the patient does survive, kidney damage will almost certainly have occurred.

If you suspect your dog has eaten Ibuprofen, and even one tablet can cause damage, seek veterinary help immediately.

Treatment will aim to remove as much of the drug from the dog's system as possible; Emetics to induce vomiting and an intravenous drip to try and reduce kidney damage. This needs to be carried out within a few hours at most but if the dog has ingested a large dose, seizures, kidney failure and serious gastric and intestinal ulceration will occur.

SHUT THE BATHROOM DOOR

Dogs are naturally interested in smelly things, they can get a lot of information by having a good sniff and maybe even eating stuff which humans find disgusting. This curiosity can lead them into your bathroom where the bin could contain all sorts of delights for the average dog. Tampons, sanitary towels, discarded condoms, babies' nappies, cotton wool buds; all fascinating to your dog. If he eats any of these products, they could cause all sorts of problems in his digestive tract so keep the bathroom door firmly closed and use a bin with a heavy lid to prevent him getting to the contents.