

Marijuana Toxicity in Pets

Marijuana intoxication is a rising problem in pets since legalization occurred in Canada. According to the ASPCA a 300% increase has occurred in marijuana related vet visits between the years 2017 and 2022. It is important to take steps to prevent pets from accessing marijuana, be able identify the toxicity, and take steps to manage the symptoms at home if veterinary access is limited.

Lethal doses of marijuana is 3g/Kg

Animals behaviour will be affected at 0.3 mg/Kg dose

Symptoms seen in 30-60 minutes after ingestion



Prevention

- Marijuana toxicity is a completely preventable problem in our pets and is the most important management step
- Marijuana should be stored up high and out of reach of pets
- Store in a tightly sealed container that a pet would not be able to open
- Never leave marijuana unattended in a room where pets have access



Identification

Signs and symptoms include:

- sleepiness
- dilated pupils
- disorientation
- vomiting
- incoordination
- leaking urine
- slow heart rate
- cool body temperature
- sensitivity to touch, light, and sound
- excessive excitement
- vocalization
- tremors
- seizures
- coma



Management

What to do when you suspect marijuana toxicity:

- contact pet poison control for support:
 - **855-764-7661**
- In dogs you may have them drink hydrogen peroxide to cause vomiting, DO NOT attempt in cats
- Place animal in a quiet, warm, and safe room until symptoms subside
- Symptoms may continue for 24 hours to 5 days
- See vet when possible