



Help! My Dog ate rat bait!

A common problem our clients experience is a pet gaining access to rodenticides, whether it be the poison itself or ingesting a rodent containing the bait. Knowing how to react in a situation like this could save your pet's life.

Firstly, it is important to remember that even if you have placed baits carefully out of a dog's reach, rodents often move them or ingest them and then die somewhere your dog can access.

If you find your dog eating a bait or rodent, or find the chewed remains of a bait packet or rodent, you should contact us immediately and arrange an appointment with the veterinarian, even if your pet does not look sick. The toxins in rodenticides take up to 48 hours to take effect, and cause issues by interfering with an animal's ability to form clots to stop bleeding. Although your pet will not show signs for a couple of days after eating rat bait, we have a very small window of opportunity to start treatment, so it is important that we see them as soon as possible. It is very helpful if you know the type of rodenticide or can bring a packet in with you, because there are different kinds of baits that determine how long they can affect your pet. The best treatment for acute ingestion is to induce vomiting to prevent absorption of the toxins, which is done by administering a drug via injection or eye drops. The next step is to perform a clotting profile to determine whether your pet has absorbed any poison or not, and this will determine whether they need further treatment, and the duration of treatment.

It is important to monitor your pet closely after visiting the clinic for rat bait ingestion. Signs of rat bait poisoning only begin 48 hours after ingestion but can last up to a month. Symptoms include pale gums, weakness, exercise intolerance and bruising, and severely affected animals can die. With prompt treatment and close monitoring at home, animals usually recover quite well and are back to their normal selves in no time.