Take Poisoning Seriously

Toxicology cases are more common than we think. The Veterinary Poisons Information Service receives more than 10,000 inquiries every year regarding suspected cases of animal poisoning in the UK and many owners have concerns about suspected poisoning of their pets even in the absence of any evidence of clinical signs.

Poisoning inquiries take a variety of forms:

- Incidental ingestion of non-toxic substances.
- Unintentional intoxication, where animals are given inappropriate human pharmaceuticals, supplements or foods.
- Accidental ingestion of known toxins such as antifreeze.
- Malicious and criminal poisoning.

Most of us receive little if any training in diagnostic testing for toxins and as such few practices historically have offered diagnostic testing.

However, this testing is now routinely available through CTDS, and our associated laboratories TDDS and PTDS, with results for many tests available the day of sample receipt.

To help your staff get up to speed with diagnostic toxicology I have included number of online resources and attachments. I would ask you please to circulate this information to all veterinary surgeons, nurses and reception staff at the practice.


2. Veterinary Poisons Information Service (VPIS).

https://vpisglobal.com/

The RCVS Practice Standards Scheme requires that practices have protocols in place to access advice from a service which provides veterinary specific advice on the
management of poisons. The VPIS provides such a service which is available by telephone 24 hours a day (020 73 055 055) and their website includes a wealth of information on common toxins and their management. VPIS also offers CPD.


http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/poisons/#pph-poison-list-divider-A

A US based database of information on toxins available as an alphabetical listing to allow quick access to relevant information when you are faced with an acute situation and need rapid access to information on toxic agents and their management.

4. VetsNow ToxBox.

https://www.vets-now.com/vet-professionals/tox-box/

VetsNow hold a range of selected agents and antidotes to poisons at their sites across the UK which are available to all practices. These include many of the agents specified in the RCVS Practice Standards manual and comprise:

- Activated charcoal
- Apomorphine
- European adder antivenom
- Fresh frozen plasma
- Methocarbamol
- Acetylcysteine
- Vitamin K1
- Intralipid®

Access to these agents is not restricted to practices with VetsNow membership and is available from the link above. Contact the VPIS for details of your nearest ToxBox.

5. Practice Resources and Waiting Room Posters.

Waiting room leaflets posters and seasonal board kits raise owner awareness of the common toxins to pets and clinical signs. Available from Forum Animal Health and VPIS.

http://www.forumanimalhealth.co.uk/small_animal_products_swallowing_dangers.asp
https://vpisglobal.com/flyers-and-leaflets/

Forum Animal Health also offer in clinic CPD delivered by their qualified Territory Managers animal.health@TVMlab.co.uk

6. CTDS Help.

There are 4 CTDS attachments also included with this email to assist with the submission of samples for diagnostic testing for toxins.

These comprise the latest:
- Toxicology and Drug Testing brochure and pricelist.
- A lab submission form which includes information on sample requirements and shipping.
- Freepost address label.
- Frequently Asked Questions relating to toxicology testing.

Pathologist advice on all aspects of toxicology investigation is available on 0113 287 0175 during office hours and 24 hours a day free of charge on 07899 707071

I hope the information included will be useful and act a resource for the practice in relation to diagnostic toxicology and toxicology testing. Please do not hesitate to contact me if any member of the practice has any questions in relation to testing of animal samples or materials presented for testing by owners.