

## DANGER TO YOUR DOG OR PETS



Even the smallest cane toad is poisonous these toads produce a milky white toxin called Bufo toxin which they exude from poison parotoid glands behind their eyes, and other parts of their body. They squeeze this poison onto the surface of their skin when they are under threat. When treated roughly, they can even squirt the poison up to two metres. Bufo toxin a milky fluid which contains several identifiable components : bufagin, with effects on the heart.

Bufotenine, a hallucinogen; and serotonin, a vasoconstrictor. The composition of the poison varies with the species of toad. Taken internally the poison causes [server](#), mostly fatal reaction in most dogs (animals ).

Pets are commonly poisoned from mouthing cane toads or sometimes when the toad's poison gets into their eyes. Signs of poisoning include profuse **salivation, twitching, vomiting, shallow breathing, and collapse of the hind limbs**. Death may occur by cardiac arrest within 15 minutes if not seen to immediately by a vet and even then your dog will be on the critical list.

The toad's poison is also dangerous to humans and deaths have occurred. Some adults have even been affected when they absorbed the poison through cuts in their skin after handling a toad.

## **WHEN ARE CANE TOADS MOST ACTIVE?**

Adult cane toads are most active particularly at night during the warmer months of the year their most active season is from September to April. During the cold and dry period they hide wherever.

But do not trust these toads some are around when you least expect them to be.

## **HABITAT AND HABITAT TYPE**

Cane Toads are found in habitats ranging from sand dunes and coastal heath to the margins of rainforest and mangroves. They are most abundant in open clearings in urban areas, and in grassland and woodland. Vegetation Habitat: closed scrub, grassland, low open forest, low shrub land, open forest, open woodland, woodland.

**WHAT CAN I DO ?** You can help control cane toad numbers by controlling cane toads on your property remember the smallest toad is just as poisonous as a large one so have no mercy. Control is best at the egg or adult stages, because cane toad tadpoles can be confused with some native tadpoles. Remove toads. Carry out nightly checks around your home. Toads can be easily caught by placing a plastic bag over them. The best and most humane disposal method is to chill the toad to 4 degrees, then freeze and bury. New cane toad traps are also an efficient means of capturing toads.

## **ELIMINATE BREEDING SITES:**

Toads are restricted in the height they can jump, and they are inclined to lay their eggs in depressions and in water containers close to the ground. Make sure not to give toads places to hide.

## **YOUR CANE TOAD 'TO DO' LIST**

If you have a dog that shows interest in toads do the following:-

Keep your dog inside after dark

Only allow your dog outside on lead or in a confined area that is toad proof

If you use the 'on lead' method try to teach your dog not to attack toads being terriers it will not be so easy.

Never leave any of your dog's foods, or water standing around outside at night this will attract the toads.

## **SIGNS OF TOAD POISONING:**

This is what you need to do if your pet is poisoned.

Due to its corrosive and irritant nature, the toad's venom will cause profuse salivation soon after your pet bites it. Pets affected by the irritant venom will paw their mouth due to the pain. If you see your pet drooling and distressed but haven't seen it attack a toad, look at its gums. If they are red and inflamed, toad poisoning is likely.

Vomiting often occurs, especially in cats. Cats also show hindquarter weakness and a fixed trance-like stare.

If your dog is poisoned, it will usually suffer from seizures or convulsions. These convulsions are often fatal unless you seek urgent veterinary attention.

## **STOP - SEEK VET ATTENTION NOW.**

After it has mouthed a toad, it is **vital** that you remove all trace of the poison from your pets' teeth and gums.

Use a jet of water from a hose to remove the toxin

The water jet should be directed forward out of your pet's mouth, **not down** into its throat for at least 5 minutes.

Rubbing the teeth and gums with a soft rag containing human toothpaste may also help to remove the toxin.

**CAUTION - IF YOUR DOG IS CONVULSING YOU MAY GET BITTEN DOING THIS**

**GOOD LUCK**