Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drug (NSAID) Toxicity in Dogs and Cats

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Toxin
Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs

Source
Many analgesics, fever medications, and anti-inflammatory medications such as ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil, Nuprin, Vick's DayQuil), indomethacin, piroxicam (Feldene), phenylbutazone (Bute and Butazolidin), and naproxen (Naprosyn and Aleve). Veterinary NSAIDs include products such as aspirin, carprofen (Rimadyl), ketoprofen, deracoxib (Deramaxx), meloxicam (Metacam), tepoxalin (Zubrin), and etodolac (EtoGesic).

General Information
Always check with your veterinarian before giving any medication to your pet. Many medications available for human use are dangerous to pets. The NSAIDs are an example of this, especially in cats. NSAIDs decrease production of substances that protect the stomach and GI tract from the acid and reduce blood flow to the area. This can cause ulceration and perforation of the stomach or intestines. NSAIDs also decrease the blood flow to the kidneys causing damage and renal failure. Phenylbutazone may also cause liver damage.

Toxic Dose
Varies with each medication and species. Example: Ibuprofen is toxic at 22-50 mg per pound of body weight.

Signs
Abdominal pain, anemia, blood in the stool (blood may be digested so the stool appears black and tarry), vomiting with or without blood, lethargy, ataxia, stupor, and shock if perforation has occurred.

Immediate Action
Induce vomiting. Seek veterinary attention.

Veterinary Care
General treatment: The induction of vomiting may be continued, gastric lavage is performed, and activated charcoal is administered.

Supportive treatment: IV fluids are administered to try to protect the kidneys and treat for shock. Medications such as Sucralfate and misoprostol are administered in an effort to try to prevent formation of gastric ulcers. Repeated blood tests will be performed to monitor the function of kidneys and liver.

Specific treatment: Unavailable.

Prognosis
Guarded to poor.

Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children and pets.

If you think your pet has been poisoned...
Contact your veterinarian or one of the Animal Poison Hotlines (listed below) if you think your pet may have accidentally received or been given an overdose of the medication.
**ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center
1-888-4ANI-HELP (1-888-426-4435). $65.00 per case, billed to caller's credit card.
Follow-up calls can be made for no additional charge by dialing 888-299-2973.
There is no charge when the call involves a product covered by the Animal Product Safety Service.
**Pet Poison Helpline - 24-hour service available throughout North America for pet owners and veterinary professionals who require assistance with treating a potentially poisoned pet.
1-800-213-6680 ($35.00 per incident). Staffed 24-hours a day.

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