



Pet Poison/Toxicology

Pets & Marijuana

know the facts



<http://phc.amedd.army.mil>

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APHC Animal Health

This information brochure was written by Army Veterinary Services personnel and published by the Army Public Health Center to inform and educate Service members, beneficiaries, and retirees about Animal Health. Comments or questions regarding content can be directed to ARMY-VSPublications@mail.mil. Locate your local Veterinary Treatment Facility at <https://tiny.army.mil/r/JG66r/VTFs>



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Please **schedule** an
appointment with your
veterinarian to discuss any
questions or concerns!

Marijuana can make your pet sick.

Your Veterinary Treatment Facility can help!



DOGS



CATS

Army Public Health Center Animal Health

Pets and Marijuana: The Good, the Bad, the Munchies

As marijuana becomes more readily available and even legal to purchase and consume in some states, more pets will be exposed to the drug and its side effects. Although a “natural” product—a plant—it is still not safe for our animals and pets to be exposed to or consume marijuana. A “high” pet is not a happy or a healthy pet.

Marijuana intoxication is primarily seen in dogs and occasionally in cats. Pets can become sick after being exposed to second-hand smoke or, more commonly, by ingesting the plants or marijuana-infused sweets and foods. The toxic dose is dependent on the size and weight of the pet and on the concentration of the tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in the plant or food. Newer, more concentrated plant strains are being grown today, as well as synthetic analogs (oils and salts) that have much higher concentrations of THC in the product. Pets will react differently to different amounts of consumed THC. It is important to remember that the food itself (chocolate brownies, butter, and so forth), without the added THC, can also make your pet ill.

Marijuana Makes Pets Sick!

Signs of Marijuana Toxicity:

- Drooling and vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Loss of bladder and bowel control
- Anxiety, agitation, and excitement
- Extreme response to noise, smells, and sights in their environment
- Loss of balance leading to stumbling and falls
- Lower heart rate
- Coma and seizures
- Death (if large amounts are eaten)



If you think your **pet has eaten or been exposed to marijuana, contact your veterinarian.**

If you think your pet has eaten or been exposed to marijuana or is exhibiting any of the signs above, have a responsible driver take them to **your veterinarian immediately**. Be up front about what happened and is making your pet sick. Treating your pets is the veterinarian's primary concern.

Hospitalization is sometimes required to ensure proper supportive care and to protect the pet from falls. Long-term health consequences and death are extremely rare. Most animals will recover over a period of a few hours, but it can be up to a day or two depending on amount ingested or inhaled and care provided.

Prevention is easy:

- Smoke it **OUTSIDE**. Second-hand smoke, whether from tobacco, vaping, or marijuana, is harmful to your pets.
- Secure your plants, baked goods, and any oils or salts that contain THC out of reach of your pets, preferably under lock and key to prevent accidental ingestion.
- Do **NOT** self-administer or medicate your pets.

Medical Marijuana for Pets

It is illegal in every state for veterinarians to prescribe/recommend marijuana for the treatment of an animal. In humans, marijuana can bring a sense of euphoria to its users and may be prescribed for anxiety, pain relief, and to stimulate a person's appetite. It should not be assumed that marijuana affects animals in the same way it does humans. There is minimal pharmacological research on the effects THC has on animals, and it has shown to be toxic to cats and dogs.

