Your pet has ingested something toxic. What do you do? First, take a deep breath. The calmer, cool, and collected you are, the sooner you can seek the correct medical attention. Then get a handle on the situation by taking the following steps:

- 1. Remove your pet from the area. Make sure no other pets or children are exposed to the area, and safely remove any poisonous material.
- 2. Check to make sure your pet is breathing normally and acting fine otherwise.
- 3. Collect a sample of the material, along with the packaging, vial, or container. You'll need that information to help your veterinarian or a pet poison expert assess situation.
- 4. Don't give your dog any milk, food, salt, oil, or any other home remedies. Doing so will likely complicate the poisoning.
- 5. Never induce vomiting without talking to your veterinarian or a pet poison expert-doing so may be detrimental or contraindicated.
- 6. Get Help. Program your veterinarian's phone number into your phone, as well as the emergency veterinarian's number and a pet poison helpline number.

Remember that a pet's prognosis is always better when a toxicity is reported immediately, so don't wait to see if your pet becomes symptomatic before calling for help. Calling right away is safer for your pet and could help you save on treatment costs in the long run. Remember that there's a narrow window of time to decontaminate in cases of poisoning.

Important to numbers to have:

Summit Veterinary Referral Center (Emergency) (253)983-1114 (Open 24 hours a day)

Blue Pearl Tacoma (253)474-0791 (Open 24 hours a day)

ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888)426-4435 (Available)24/7, \$85 per call)

Free if your pets' microchip is registered with Home Again (homeagain.com)