



Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners

Health and Safety

Updated: September 11, 2015

Garbage Poisoning in Dogs and Pets

Issue: Poisoning of pets due to consumption of garbage or other offal.

Background to the Issue:

- Many families spend a considerable amount of time at the cottage and this includes taking their pets with them.
- These pets are often allowed freedom to roam at large.
- Dogs, by their nature, are scavengers and will eat almost anything of interest to them.
- This will include garbage which has not been disposed of properly, and carrion that may be hidden in areas near the cottage.
- Carrion is any dead animal, bird or fish (remains) that is in a state of decomposition.
- This carrion can be a source of infectious material – causing bacterial infections of the intestinal tract with symptoms of diarrhoea, and may also contain toxic compounds such as **Botulism** toxin which can render your pet paralysed.

Cautionary Notes:

- Make sure you always keep track of your pets.
- Always dispose of garbage in bear-proof containers.

Advisory Notes:

- If your pet becomes ill or out of sorts at the cottage, seek advice from a veterinarian regarding diagnosis and types of treatment that is available.
- Be sure to give a detailed history of the incident, if known.
- For further information you may wish to “google” **Garbage Poisoning in Dogs** – a variety of web sites will be listed giving more details on this subject.