

## KNOW THE SIGNS OF 1080 POISONING

You may not be able to tell whether the dog has eaten anything so it is essential to be constantly aware and be able to recognise signs of 1080 poisoning.

- The signs of poisoning may appear from as little as half an hour after the dog has ingested the poison, or as much as several hours after.
- You may detect changes in behaviour - disorientation, restlessness, hyperactivity. The dog may run in circles, howl or bark without apparent reason, or be sensitive to touch. It may become aggressive and snap at things.
- The next stage can see the dog start to drool, vomit, defaecate and urinate. There may be muscle tremors followed by convulsions; and death can occur within two to 12 hours after ingestion of the poison.

Dogs can be saved if early appropriate action is taken. But THERE IS NO ANTIDOTE FOR 1080. Treatment is symptomatic. It can be expensive and it may not be successful.

*Prevention against poisoning is always better than trying to treat a dog that has been poisoned.*

### Treatment

#### ACTION PLAN FOR ACCIDENTAL POISONING

Take prompt action if you suspect a dog has chewed or eaten part of a poisoned carcass.

**Make the dog vomit immediately** - The most reliable method to do this is to put one or two crystals of washing soda (available from supermarkets) down the dog's throat. Alternatively you can use emetic pills available from the poisoning contractor, or half a teaspoon of salt thrown on the back of the dogs tongue; AND THEN

**Immediately take the dog to the vet** - After you have made the dog vomit, phone the vet to warn that you are on the way and advise the nature of the problem.

National Poisons Centre 24-hour emergency service:  
0800-764-766

## REMEMBER

1080 IS DESIGNED TO KILL PESTS...

...BUT IT CAN KILL DOGS IF THEY ARE ALLOWED IN TO POISON AREAS

### WARNING SIGNS will be in place around affected areas

As a responsible dog owner you should ensure your dog keeps away from these signs



If you need a safe place for your dog to exercise, check with the Department of Conservation or your local Regional Council.

[www.npca.org.nz](http://www.npca.org.nz)



**C3** 1080 AND DOGS DON'T MIX,  
PROTECTION IS THE CURE

PRODUCED BY



## PREVENT POISONING... IT'S UP TO YOU

1080 is one of the main weapons in protecting our forests and farms from possums and tuberculosis. It's an essential tool in the current fight to preserve the ecological and economic viability of many areas which would otherwise be devastated.

But every year many dogs die from 1080 poisoning even though possum control contractors provide information and warnings of when and where 1080 is being used.

Contractors can't be there with you and your dog. They need your help to reduce accidental poisoning of dogs.

### Be alert to poisoning THE DANGER ZONES

Warning signs must be put up at entrances to properties where bait is used, and where the public has access. Those signs must remain while the poisoning operation is taking place and until the area is declared safe. This is required by law.

For aerial operations, newspaper advertisements will also be placed by the agency concerned, or the contractor carrying out the operation. For landowners, schools and others who are either in the poisoning area or nearby, contact will be made by phone, mail or personal visits. The special risks to dogs of a 1080 poisoning operation will be explained.



### Warning ALL DOGS ARE AT RISK

By nature dogs tend to roam so they are at greater risk than other animals. Dogs don't recognise boundaries - they cross them without concern as they explore land in their area.

Dogs are also scavengers, so any animal carcass that might be lying around is a potential target. Dogs are attracted to carcasses; they sometimes roll in them, pick them up, carry them, play with them, or eat them.

Be aware that dogs are more vulnerable to 1080 than possums!

***Most reported dog deaths occur after eating poisoned carcasses, not bait.***

1080 poison can be found where it might not be expected.

- 1080 can persist in possum carcasses until all the fleshy parts and entrails are fully decomposed. This can take from three to six months and longer in cold and/or dry conditions.
- Poisoned possums may travel away from and die outside the poison zone.

## THE RISKS

**Pets:** going for walks in the vicinity of treated areas.

**Hunting dogs:** pig hunting or retrieving game near treated areas.

**Farm dogs**

- If working dogs are not tightly controlled or are allowed free range they have the opportunity to make contact with poisoned carcasses.
- When mustering in the vicinity of treated areas, dogs may have the opportunity to roam there.
- When dogs are hungry they may scavenge in areas where poison has been laid.

### Owners' check list PROTECT YOUR DOG

#### Pets and hunting dogs

- Do not allow your dog in or around poisoned areas. Warning signs will be in place – do *not* ignore them!
- If you must enter a poisoned area, keep your dog on a leash.

#### Working dogs

Farmers who work their dogs in or around a poisoned area should take the following precautions:

- Firstly, consider whether stock around the area of the 1080 drop can be managed without dogs.
- Keep your working dogs well fed. Feed dogs meat rather than biscuits during and after a 1080 operation, so they are less inclined to scavenge on dead possums.
- Kennel or chain your dogs when they are not working.
- Restrain your dogs when they are out on the farm and 1080 is being used nearby.
- If necessary, dogs can be muzzled. Remember, however, a muzzle may annoy if a dog is not used to wearing it. Its use needs to be gradually introduced. A muzzle may also result in heat stress during work. Dogs must be able to pant and be given the opportunity to drink – particularly in hot weather.