



RAT BAIT TOXICITY

What are the signs?

Rat baits cause blood to stop clotting. There can be a delay of several days from the time of access to developing clinical signs. Bleeding may occur anywhere in the body so the signs are very variable;

- Pale gums
- Coughing
- Collapse
- Breathing changes
- Lameness
- Discoloured urine
- Haematomas under the skin
- Nose bleed/epistaxis



How is it treated?

If your pet is known to have eaten the bait recently (within a few hours) we will induce vomiting and give activated charcoal. Your pet will then go home on Vitamin K, which the body will use to make more clotting factors.

If your pet is already showing signs of bleeding then they will need more intensive treatment in hospital. They will still need to start Vitamin K but they may also need a blood transfusion and/or oxygen support, plus tailored supportive care depending on their clinical signs.

What happens post-treatment?

Your pet will be discharged on Vitamin K tablets/liquid. This will need to continue for 2-4 weeks, depending on the brand of rat bait used (so please bring the packaging with you if possible!). They may also need to have intermittent clotting times checked at your regular vet, during and just after treatment finishes. Ensure they have plenty of R&R to minimise the chance of further bleeding.

Rat baits are one toxin that can be treated very effectively when caught early, so if you know your pet has had access then have them seen ASAP!