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!
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.