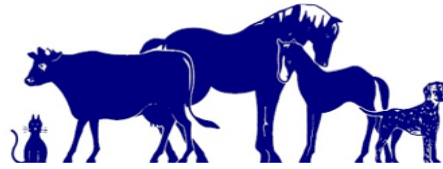


ABN 70 601 832 062



AJ & JL Williams Pty Ltd T/A

# WANGARATTA VETERINARY CLINIC

3 Baker St, Wangaratta 3677 Ph (03) 5721 4000 Fax (03) 5722 1269

*Friendly service and professional care for all.*

## RAT BAIT POISONING

Rat baits are an effective way to kill mice and rats, however, they are also an effective way to kill our dogs! The poison in rat bait binds Vitamin K in the body which means the blood is unable to clot. Without Vitamin K your pet could be at risk of uncontrollable bleeding either internally, externally or both.

### **THE BAIT:**

There are two types of rat bait that have different durations of effect:

- 1<sup>st</sup> generation eg Warfarin – **7 days** duration
- 2<sup>nd</sup> generation eg Brodifacoum – **4-6 weeks** duration. This is the most common rat bait we see these days.

### **CLINICAL SIGNS:**

Clinical signs are not normally seen for 36 to 73 hours post-ingestion due to the body's reserve of clotting factors. Signs are highly variable and depend on where in the body the animal is bleeding. Some of the symptoms include:

- off food
- quiet, lethargic
- soft cough
- increased effort and rate of breathing
- gum colour may be pale or white
- bloody vomit or diarrhoea
- excessive or uncontrollable external bleeding
- collapse

### **DIAGNOSIS:**

If you see any of the above signs or you suspect/witness your dog eating rat bait you need to call your veterinarian as soon as possible to ensure quick and effective treatment. An in-house blood test can be done to detect early clotting problems in the blood.

#### **TREATMENT:**

- Treatment is **Vitamin K1** oral supplementation for 4-6 weeks.
- Your dog must be kept **QUIET** during this time while their blood regenerates- **NO running or walks, jumping or anything that could potentially cause your dog to bruise or pop a blood vessel.**

Monitor your dog closely in the week following the end of the medication for any sign that bleeding may be continuing (we usually see this if the dog got into more bait while on Vitamin K1 supplementation – it does happen!)