**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.

**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
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 when and where 1080 is being used.

Be alert to poisoning

THE DANGER ZONES

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 scaveng from 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.