

ACCES for Pet Health

<http://blog.seattlepi.com/accesforpethealth/archives/212228.asp>

Bee Stings and Your Pet

By Patrick Miles, DVM

With Summer on its way, bees and other stinging insects are becoming more and more prevalent. Animals can have a number of reactions to insect stings. Many pets will only have mild swelling in the area stung. Most commonly, pets present with mild swelling of the muzzle, hives, redness of the skin and itchiness. More severe symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, acute collapse, and breathing difficulties can also be seen but are rare.

If your pet has been stung and the stinger can be found, simply try to wipe away the stinger. Cold compressing the site may be all that is required. If any of the other symptoms mentioned previously are noted, it is recommended to seek immediate veterinary medical attention. Vomiting after a bee sting can be an early sign of anaphylaxis and emergency treatment should be sought if this is seen. Some cases are very mild and may not require much therapy, but it is difficult to determine the progression of the reaction without monitoring each pet individually.

Treatment often entails administering antihistamines and short acting steroids. In more severe cases, hospitalization may be required. It is not uncommon for mild symptoms such as hives to recur after treatment, but should be reduced in severity. Further therapy should be made under the guidance of your veterinarian.



Watch out this summer for potential bee stings.

Posted by **Christina Ryan** at June 23, 2010 1:54 p.m.

[Return to Bee Stings and Your Pet](#)