Decontamination Tips

Ocular Exposures

With any ocular exposure, the eyes should be flushed repeatedly with water or saline solutions for a minimum of 20-30 minutes.

Dermal Exposures

With dermal exposures, the animal should be bathed in a mild liquid dishwashing detergent.
Oral Ingestion

Dilution
Dilution with milk or water in combination with demulcents is recommended in cases of corrosive ingestion.

Emesis
Dogs, cats, ferrets, and potbelly pigs are examples of house pets that can vomit. Emetics should not be used in rodents, rabbits, birds, horses, and ruminants.

Activated Charcoal
Activated charcoal adsorbs a chemical or toxicant and facilitates its excretion via the feces. It is administered when an animal ingests organic poisons, chemicals or bacterial toxins or if enterohepatic circulation of metabolized toxicants can occur. The recommended dose of activated charcoal for most animals is 1-3 grams/kg.

Decontamination Don’ts
- Don’t bathe a seizuring animal.
- Don’t use salt as an emetic agent.
- Don’t induce vomiting with a corrosive ingestion.
- Don’t induce emesis in a severely lethargic, comatose, or debilitated patient.
- Don’t induce vomiting in an animal that has had recent abdominal surgery.
- Don’t induce vomiting in a bird, rabbit, rat, horse or ruminant.

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In symptomatic or uncooperative animals, anesthesia may be needed. A cuffed endotracheal tube should be used in the sedated or clinically depressed animal to prevent aspiration.

Use care when administering to small or dehydrated animals, or with multiple dosing, to avoid serious electrolyte derangements.