

# DANGER TO PETS



This toad is poisonous to pets and humans. When harassed, it releases a white toxin from glands in the skin that can cause severe illness and death if ingested. Seek veterinary assistance immediately!

The Cane Toad (*Bufo marinus*) was introduced to the Virgin Islands to control agricultural pests. It is most commonly found around ponds and guts but can also be found in other areas. It is active at night. Adults can be as large as 6-9 inches in length and have brown warty skin. They are ground dwellers and do not climb trees or walls.

## How to avoid interactions with toads:

- Toads are active at night: keep your pets inside after dark
- Keep dogs on a leash
- Train dogs not to attack toads
- Toads are attracted to pet food: don't leave bowls of pet food outdoors
- Toads can contaminate drinking water in bowls: replace water and clean bowls daily

## Symptoms of toad poisoning :

- Profuse salivation or frothing at the mouth
- Pawing at mouth
- Brick red inflamed gums
- Vomiting
- Seizures and heart failure

If your pet is showing any of these symptoms, seek veterinary assistance immediately!

## What to do if you suspect your pet has been poisoned by a toad:

- Rinse mouth out IMMEDIATELY with water from a hose, kitchen sink sprayer, shower sprayer, or water bottle: direct water flow out of mouth instead of down throat
- Rubbing teeth and gums with a soft rag with toothpaste helps remove toxin.
- **SEEK VETERINARY ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY:** call first to ensure vet is available



For more information on cane toads and their control contact the DPNR Division of Fish and Wildlife at 340-775-6762

