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SAVE YOUR **BEST FRIEND!** RUSTENBURG DOG POISONING ON THE INCREASE



Daleen Smit with Rex, a purebred, 9-year old Jack Russel, a regular client of Bergbos Animal Clinic. "Bergbos gives Rex the best care and love!" says Daleen Smit.

Rustenburg – Man's best friend, our dogs, are under threat. Occurrences of poisoning have tremendously increased over the past month in Rustenburg. *Platinum Weekly* spoke to the veterinarians of Bergbos Animal Clinic to find out what to do when this happens to you.

According to veterinarian Dr Kobus Grobler, past experience has often proven that poisoning of dogs is the first visible step in an onslaught onto your property. "It's usually a sign that criminals are eliminating threats in order to cause you harm. You have to buff up on your security."

Symptoms may vary depending on the type of poison used, but if you suspect that your pet has been exposed to poison, stay calm! Contact your veterinarian immediately and tell them you are on your way; this will allow them to prepare for your arrival. Move your pet to a safe area (away from the poison), if possible.

BUT don't put yourself at risk – wear protective gloves. In one such a incident in Rustenburg, the poison used was extremely lethal (they usually are). A *Platinum Weekly* reader fell victim. She removed the poison from her animal, while wearing protective gloves, but was still exposed to the poison which rendered her unconscious within two minutes and in the hospital for a few days.

Symptoms of animal poisoning usually include increased saliva foaming, vomiting, diarrhea, or bloody stool, seizures, lethargy (extreme tiredness), a loss of appetite, bruising and nosebleeds. "Some symptoms are present within a few minutes and others present later, but if you are unsure, contact us immediately as time is of the essence," Dr Grobler said.

For more information, contact the Bergbos Animal Clinic on 014-533 1959 or 1585 of 1694 or their emergency number on 083-653 1081. The clinic is situated on 1 Bergbos Avenue, Protea Park, Rustenburg.

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MR DEAF SA!**
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