



Riley

Riley was presented to our emergency service after breaking open a bottle of human medications and eating their contents. She was taken to a local referring veterinarian who attempted to induce vomiting, but Riley did not respond to the injection. They placed an IV catheter, started IV fluids, and transferred her to MLAH. She was comatose upon arrival. At the time, we only knew that she had ingested a massive overdose of meloxicam, an NSAID medication. Dogs can take meloxicam too, and a normal dose is 0.1 to 0.2 milligrams per kilogram of body weight. Riley had ingested about 10 milligrams per kilogram of meloxicam, so an overdose of 50-100 times the labeled dose. Doses of 1 mg/kg can cause stomach ulceration and at 2 mg/kg can cause acute kidney failure. However, they should not have caused her to be comatose. As we started efforts to stabilize Riley, her owners also learned that she had eaten up to about 20 mg of alprazolam, which is generic Xanax. Dogs can also take alprazolam, with a typical dose range of 0.02 to 0.1 mg/kg. Riley had ingested up to 1 mg/kg, so potentially a 10X overdose.

Hospitalization with aggressive fluid therapy for a minimum of 72 hours was needed to prevent kidney failure from the meloxicam overdose. Riley was also extremely sedated from the alprazolam overdose. We gave several drug reversal injections and after several hours, Riley was more alert but blind. After another couple hours, Riley could wag her tail and talk but still could not see or stand. By the end of her first day in the hospital, her vision returned. Riley's kidney values were monitored every 24 hours and never elevated as with kidney failure. She was treated with multiple medications to protect against stomach ulcer formation. Somewhat miraculously and with the help of EMPATH, Riley's pet parents were able to provide the care she needed and she was discharged 3 days later with no evidence of complications from her intoxications. Riley is truly a lucky dog!