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# Dog recovering after eating rat poison

Continued from pg. 1

"I'm lucky I saw that (the poison)," she said.

The vet induced vomiting in her dogs. None of the poison came out of the puppy, Snook said, but Roper threw up a substantial amount. Snook figures he had eaten at least two cubes of the poison.

Boudreau injected Roper with Vitamin K, and he's now being given it orally over the next four weeks. Then a blood test will be done to make sure he's not suffering any ill effects from the poison.

It appears Roper is okay, Snook said, adding though that he has been lethargic at times.

"It's still going to be touch and go...he can't be bumped, he can't be bitten because he could bruise and bleed out," said Snook.

"I'm upset. This is my family. They're not just pet dogs; they're my competition dogs. I take such good care of them."

Roper and Snook won three Canadian Agility Association titles between 2003 and 2010 when Roper retired at 10.

Boudreau said when a rodent ingests rat poison it interrupts the liver's ability to make the proteins for clotting the blood. The animal then dies from internal hemorrhaging.

"We're hoping being on the Vitamin K will be sufficient to stop the process (for Roper)," said Boudreau.

Boudreau said rodents can carry the poison with them from one place to another,

where other animals can get into it.

"I recommend not to use it," said Boudreau, suggesting instead people with rodent problems use (traditional) traps, or live traps.

Snook doesn't know how the poison got into her backyard. She said it wasn't in the yard at 2 p.m., but by 4 p.m. it was.

She contacted Halton Police about the incident.

"I find it difficult to believe that a rodent from 2 to 4 p.m. brought that into the middle of my yard," said Snook.

Another option is someone could have put it in her yard, but Snook said she's never had an issue with neighbours over her dogs. She added her dogs aren't barkers. She suggested the poison might have been put there by some "random silly kids."

She said there are many squirrels and chipmunks in the neighbourhood.

"If people are putting it out to kill the rodents (they need to be aware) if they do drag it off into someone's backyard they could be killing someone's pet."

Snook said she's now afraid to let her three dogs out into the yard, and scours it before they do go out.

She's hoping for a good outcome for Roper, believing the fact she realized so quickly that Roper had ingested the poison will make the difference.

"If I hadn't seen that tiny piece (of poison) I wouldn't have known (he ate it)."

Her other dogs have all had their blood tested as well in case they may have ingested some of the poison.



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