

# Puppy Love

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## *A Girl and a Toad*

Is it okay for a girl to kiss a toad? Probably, but she should always wash her face and hands afterwards. However, a dog should never kiss a toad or even touch one for that matter. Toad poisoning is one of the top ten poisoning incidents for dogs each year and should always be considered a health emergency requiring immediate treatment as it can quickly lead to death. The potent Colorado River Toad and the Marine Toad's hallucinogens can kill a dog in less than thirty minutes. The secretions of a threatened Common Toad and the American Toad can also be lethal to a dog. Most cases of poisoning are reported during the warmest weather months, when the toads are more active and humidity is high. Typically dogs come into contact with toads during the very early morning hours, or after evening has set. If you see your dog playing with a toad, or if you even suspect that he has been exposed to toad venom, you should: Immediately flush your dog's mouth with running water in an outward direction so your dog doesn't swallow the poison. Rub your dog's gums and remove any slime or residue. Get to your vet ASAP.



## **SYMPTOMS OF TOAD POISONING**

- crying or other vocalization
- pawing at the mouth or eyes
- profuse drooling or foaming of the mouth
- membranes of the mouth inflamed, dark pink or too pale
- difficulty breathing
- staggering, weakness or collapse
- seizures
- paralysis
- high temperature
- fever, diarrhea or vomiting

*Dogs and angels are  
not very far apart.*



## **Unwelcome Visitors**

If you are in the habit of leaving food or water outside for your dog you should consider discontinuing this practice. Toads are omnivorous, eating both living creatures, such as insects and small rodents, and non-living food, such as dog food. Even if a toad has had minimal contact with your dog's bowl it will still leave its venomous poison on the bowl's surface. A visit from a toad should always be avoided. Be proactive and remove all of your little doxie's bowls you have made available to him outside.



Bailey is one of our precious angels in our nursery.