



The Liverpool Echo carried an important news story about how a beloved pet dog was nearly killed by her owner's asthma inhaler, a common item found in many homes. Claire Tyrrell returned from work last week to find her chocolate Labrador, Pickle, breathing heavily and struggling to open her eyes.

Initially Claire was clueless as to what was causing the distress and rushed Pickle to a vet. The vet, too, was unsure but said Pickle was clearly in a lot of pain. She lay flaccid on the floor of the vets and her usually waggy tail was still.

After taking Pickle to another specialist dog hospital, the vets did blood tests and x-rays. Two hours later, the vet called Claire to say they were struggling to stabilise her and an ultrasound showed fluid around her heart and a murmur.

They suspected it to be heart disease or a tumour and said open heart surgery was likely to be needed. The vet phoned as she wanted to double check that Pickle had not eaten anything toxic. There was no evidence of it and she wasn't vomiting but the vet said: 'Sorry I keep asking, it's just I've treated quite a few dogs with these symptoms when they've had salbutamol toxins.'

Claire knew that three family members used the inhalers so she immediately started looking around the house for a chewed up inhaler.

"I then saw one in a tub we have in our hallway up on a shelf we didn't think she could possibly reach, but when I looked there was a small puncture hole."

Pickle had managed to climb onto the shelf and bitten into the canister, which immediately released all its 200 doses at once due to the pressure release.

At this point, Pickle was unstable and her health was deteriorating so she was moved to a specialist hospital where she received fluids and medication for her heart rate and potassium. Thankfully, the morning after, she started showing signs of recovery and even ate her breakfast. Pickle returned home with slightly puffy eyes but other than that, the vets are confident she will make a full recovery.

Claire said: "I never knew how dangerous inhalers were and while we never thought she could ever reach them, we also thought they weren't attractive to dogs but apparently the vets see it a lot.

"They smell sweet to dogs. She was so happy to be home and is now fast asleep on her favourite spot on the sofa. It's been a whirlwind of feelings for all of us but I am so happy that this warning has a happy ending."

According to petpoisonhelpline.com: "Asthma inhalers often contain beta-agonist drugs (that expand the lungs) or steroids (that decrease inflammation in the lungs). When asthma inhalers are chewed on and punctured by dogs, it can result in severe, acute poisoning.



*Pickle
recovering from
her 'pickle'*



Punctured inhaler