**iPad Mystery – Skippy the Dog Text**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAGE</th>
<th>TITLE/IMAGE</th>
<th>TEXT/SCRIPT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intro Video Page</td>
<td>Vet Detective Mystery of the Poisoned Pooch</td>
<td>Skippy’s in trouble—could it be poison? His owner came home and found him running frantically around the yard, drooling and pawing at his mouth. Then he started to stagger and vomit. Soon he was having seizures! His heart is racing—but if the vet can slow it down with this shot, there should be time to figure out what happened. Can you save Skippy? Find clues around the yard or at the vet’s office. Keep track of clues on the solve page.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intro Page</td>
<td></td>
<td>Can you save Skippy? Find clues around the YARD or at the vet’s office. Keep track of clues on the solve page.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The yard</td>
<td>Yard</td>
<td>Touch the screen for clues</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Images are touchable  | Algae                                    | **Blue-Green Algae**  
*Anabaena circinalis*  
Found in pond  

**Could this be the poison?**  
Skippy may be in serious trouble if he drank the pond water. Some species of blue-green algae release powerful toxins. Dogs have sometimes died after swallowing these algae.  

**What to look for**  
Vomiting  
Seizures  
Drooling  

**[Caption]**  
Blue-green algae, also called cyanobacteria, release cyanotoxins.  

**SUSPECT FOUND!**

**More Info Page**

**Blue-Green Algae**
Anabaena circinalis
Found in pond

[Left Column]
A Permanent Poison?
Blue-green algae release powerful toxins and there are no known antidotes. Veterinarians can save a dog by making it vomit or giving it activated charcoal, which binds to the toxin and carries it out of the dog’s system.

Small children are at risk of poisoning, too. If they swallow too much contaminated water while swimming, they could experience serious liver damage.

Caption: This satellite image shows fast-growing algae that formed a toxic “bloom” in Lake Erie in 2011—one of the worst in decades.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Batteries</th>
<th>Batteries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Found in trash</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Could this be the poison?
Skippy got into the trash again! If he swallowed or bit into a battery, toxic chemicals could leak out. Batteries in the stomach would be visible on an X-ray.

What to look for
Vomiting
Drooling
Pawing at mouth
Fever

(Caption)
Alkaline batteries power electronic toys and remote controls—things dogs have access to and might chew.

SUSPECT FOUND!

More Info Page

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Batteries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Found in trash</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Left Column]
## Deadly Discs
Alkaline batteries contain toxic chemicals, but other kinds of batteries pose additional threats.

Lithium batteries are small, flat discs used in watches and many electronic devices. When swallowed, lithium batteries create an electric current that damages tissues in an animal’s digestive tract. One battery can tear an esophagus, stomach or intestine in as little as 15 to 30 minutes.

This isn’t a problem just for dogs. Some infants have died from complications after swallowing lithium disc batteries.

Caption: Disc battery inside three-year-old child.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bar of Chocolate</th>
<th><strong>Dark Chocolate</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Found in house</td>
<td>Could this be the poison?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Skippy has a sweet tooth! But if he ate a whole bar, a compound in the chocolate could kill him.

What to look for
Vomiting
Seizures
Hyperactivity
Drooling

(Caption)
One of the active ingredients in chocolate, theobromine, makes many dogs very sick.

SUSPECT FOUND!

More Info Page

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dark Chocolate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Found in house</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Left Column]

Size Matters
Chocolate may not be the healthiest thing for humans to eat—but at least it’s not poisonous to us. For small dogs like Skippy, chocolate can be deadly. Their tiny
bodies have trouble dealing with the effects of theobromine, an active ingredient in chocolate.

Body size is not the only factor. The type of chocolate matters, too. Dogs that eat milk chocolate, which has less theobromine, usually survive. Dark chocolate is more dangerous than milk chocolate. But the most harmful is baking chocolate, which has the highest amount of theobromine per pound.

Because of its ability to widen blood vessels, doctors can prescribe theobromine to treat high blood pressure.

Caption: Baking chocolate is an ingredient in brownies, cakes and frostings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Snake</th>
<th>Eastern Coral Snake</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Micrurus fulvius</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Slithers through underbrush</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Could this be the poison?**
Coral snakes aren't aggressive, but if Skippy bothered one, he may have been bitten on the nose. The snake’s venom could stop his breathing.

**What to look for**
Seizures
Pawing at mouth
Drooling
Inflamed bite mark

*(Caption)*
The effects from the neurotoxins in a coral snake's bite can appear up to 18 hours later.

**SUSPECT FOUND!**

**More Info Page**

Eastern Coral Snake
*Micrurus fulvius*
Slithers through underbrush

[Left Column]
## Similar Snakes
Coral snakes are the only members of the cobra family in North America. The ones found in parts of the southern U.S. and Mexico have bright red, black and yellow stripes. But there is another snake on the continent with a similar color pattern—the king snake. Unlike the poisonous coral snake, the king snake is harmless.

How can you tell these snakes apart? Just remember this saying about their colorful stripes:

- **King snake**
  - Red on black, friend of Jack

- **Coral snake**
  - Red on yellow, kill a fellow

## Southern Black Widow Spider
*Latrodectus mactans*
Hides under log

### Could this be the poison?
These spiders live in places Skippy likes to explore: woodpiles, garages and holes in the ground. If he stuck his snout in the wrong place, it could be lights out. If left untreated, one bite from a female black widow can kill a small dog.

### What to Look For
- Seizures
- Elevated heart rate
- Inflamed bite mark

### (Caption)
Black widows produce neurotoxins, including one that affects vertebrates like dogs and humans.

### SUSPECT FOUND!

More Info Page
Gender Differences
As is true for many spiders, female black widows grow much bigger than males. Females live longer and the two sexes differ in color, as well. While the female is black and red, the male is brown, usually with a few colorful markings.

Both males and females produce venom, but only females are big enough to harm dogs—or humans.

Black widows rarely bite people; when they do, it's usually to defend themselves or protect an egg sac.

[Caption: The female black widow sports a distinctive red hourglass shape on her abdomen.]

Could this be the poison?
These large toads use poison to protect against predators—or curious pets. If Skippy tried to bite or swallow one, the results could be deadly.

What to Look For
Vomiting
Seizures
Hyperactivity
Staggering
Pawing at mouth
Elevated heart rate
Fever
Drooling
Red gums

(Caption)
Cane toads secrete poisonous bufotoxins and hallucinogens from large glands located behind their heads.
Cane Toad
*Rhinella marina*
Hops through yard

[Left Column]
**Toxic Toads**
Cane toads are large amphibians, up to 9.5 inches (24 cm) long. They often come close to houses to feed, following insects attracted to lights. If pets—or people—bother the toads, they may release toxins in self-defense.

The milky toxins aren’t harmful to touch, but are dangerous if they get inside the body through the mouth, eyes, nose or even through a small cut. Humans can become quite sick and small animals can die in just 15 minutes. Cane toads often eat dog food when the food is left outside in a bowl. Dogs have become sick just from drinking water a cane toad sat in.

Caption: Cane toads were introduced into Florida and Australia from South and Central America.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poinsettia</th>
<th>Poinsettia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Euphorbia pulcherrima</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Poinsettias aren’t poisonous, but eating a lot of leaves might give Skippy a mild stomachache. This plant didn’t poison the dog.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAGE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>TEXT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vet’s office</td>
<td>The Vet</td>
<td>Touch the screen for clues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Clickable points along Skippy's body</em></td>
<td>Muzzle</td>
<td><strong>Examine Mouth</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Found</td>
<td></td>
<td>Drooling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Red gums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential causes</td>
<td></td>
<td>Since Skippy’s mouth is affected, the poison may be something that he bit or ate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legs</td>
<td>Look for Bites</td>
<td>Found: No inflamed bite mark. Potential causes: Skippy was not poisoned by an animal that bites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stomach</td>
<td>Check X-ray</td>
<td>Found: Nothing in stomach. Potential causes: Nothing unusual appeared on the scan of Skippy's stomach. If he swallowed a poison, it must be something that's not made of metal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chest</td>
<td>Check Heart Rate</td>
<td>Found: Elevated heart rate. Potential causes: Some toxic chemical caused Skippy's heart to race. The shot from the vet slowed his heart temporarily.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near Tail</td>
<td>Take Temperature</td>
<td>Found: Fever (103 °F/39.4 °C). Potential causes: Normally, Skippy's temperature is around 101 °F (38.3 °C). The poison appears to affect his whole body.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Air</td>
<td>Review History</td>
<td>Found</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Potential causes

Symptoms like seizures and hyperactivity show that the poison is affecting Skippy’s brain.

### RESULTS FOUND

Compare poisons and symptoms. Then guess what poisoned Skippy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incorrect Answers</th>
<th>Algae</th>
<th>Keep Searching</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The cyanotoxins in blue-green algae can cause many of Skippy’s symptoms, such as vomiting, seizures and drooling. But Skippy is showing other symptoms too. This poison just doesn’t add up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batteries</td>
<td>Try Again</td>
<td>Toxins in batteries would give Skippy a fever—but his body temperature is normal. Also, the x-ray showed nothing metallic inside his stomach. Trash this guess.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chocolate</td>
<td>Better Luck Next Time</td>
<td>Before he collapsed, Skippy was staggering around and pawing at his mouth. Dogs don’t do that after eating chocolate. This can’t be the culprit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snake</td>
<td>Ssss-sorry!</td>
<td>The vet saw no signs that Skippy had been bitten. And remember that Skippy was vomiting. That’s not a normal reaction to coral snake venom. The snake is innocent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spider</td>
<td>Nope</td>
<td>Skippy did suffer from seizures and an elevated heart rate. But the vet did not find any inflamed bite marks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
on him. So that rules out the black widow spider.

**Correct!**  
(Exit Video Page – Approximately 40 seconds)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Toad</th>
<th><strong>Congratulations!</strong> You’ve saved Skippy’s life and solved the Mystery of the Poisoned Pooch.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>While romping around the yard, Skippy found the cane toad and tried to play with it. When the toad didn’t cooperate, Skippy bit it and shook it around.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The toad defended itself by secreting bufotoxins, poisoning Skippy and almost killing him. Skippy might have died if it wasn’t for your quick thinking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bufotoxins cause many symptoms. One symptom—bright red gums—was the key to the case. No other potential poison here causes bright red gums.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The vet sprayed water into Skippy’s mouth to rinse out the toxin. After a long rest, Skippy is up and ready to head home for another adventure!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Photo Credits**

- Biophoto Associates/Science Source
- Chris Harris/Garden World Images/AGE Fotostock
- Cidney Conger/AGE Fotostock
- Craig Tuttle/AGE Fotostock
- DK/Alamy
- Dogsintherruff.com
- ER Degginger/Science Source
- Getty Images
- Giampiero Soccorso
- Imagebroker/Photoshot
- iStockphoto
- Jack Dermid/Photoshot
- James Robinson/Animals Animals
- Larry Malvin/AGE Fotostock
- Linda Johnsonbaugh/AGE Fotostock
- Mark David
- Maslow/FLPA/AGE Fotostock
- Mode Images/AGE Fotostock
- NASA
- NH Department of Environmental Services
- Sergio Plumatti/AGE Fotostock
- Shutterstock
- Stephen Meese/AGE Fotostock
- Suzanne L. & Joseph T. Collins/Science Source
- Woodsdale Animal Hospital