

## Devon and Severn IFCA News

### Cases of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning Suspected in Dogs Around the Country.

**Cases have been seen in dogs after eating washed up marine organisms on beaches in Norfolk and Dorset.**



There have been reports of dogs becoming ill as a result of eating dead marine organisms washed up on a beach in Norfolk, and a beach in Dorset.

Washed up marine animals have been known to carry Paralytic Shellfish Toxins (PST) which can cause Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP), which can be fatal to dogs.

PST are typically associated with bivalve molluscs such as mussels, clams, oysters and scallops. The emergence of PST in starfish and other washed up marine organisms eaten by dogs was novel to the UK in 2018.

In April 2020, there were cases of PSP in dogs in Norfolk and Dorset. This coincided with reports of large numbers of marine organisms washed up on beaches. It is believed the dog in Dorset ate a starfish from the beach.

There have been no reports of incidents within the Devon and Severn (D&S) IFCA's District, however, it is advised to keep dogs away from any washed-up marine organisms to prevent them from consuming them.

**Cefas** has developed [advice](#) for vets and pet owners on what to do if PSP is suspected in an animal. The advice clearly outlines the symptoms that may be experienced in mammals, which can come on very rapidly, and the actions that need to be taken.

Any large stranding of starfish seen on beaches within the D&S IFCA's District can be reported to [office@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk](mailto:office@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk)

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