

POISON PREVENTION TIPS

Accidental poisoning of a pet can happen quickly, sometimes in a matter of seconds. It can be far easier (and less stressful) to take preventative measures, such as those listed below, so your pet is exposed to fewer risks.

- Keep medicine, household cleaners, pesticides and automotive products locked up or stored out of the reach of pets and children.
- Before using any household or yard product, always read the label first and follow instructions exactly for safe use, storage and disposal.
- Never give any medication or supplement to your pet without first consulting your veterinarian. What's helpful to humans can be dangerous or even deadly to pets.
- Always read the label before using any flea control product on or around your pet. For example, flea products labeled "For dogs only" can cause serious or life-threatening illness if used on cats.

PUT TOGETHER A POISON SAFETY KIT

Put together a poison safety kit. Experts suggest the following items be kept in a pet safety kit in case of emergencies.

- Fresh bottle of hydrogen peroxide 3% (USP)
- Can of soft dog or cat food, as appropriate
- Turkey baster or large bulb syringe to administer hydrogen peroxide
- Saline eye solution to flush out eye contaminants
- Artificial tear gel to lubricate eyes after flushing
- Mild grease-cutting dishwashing liquid to wash the animal after skin contamination
- Rubber gloves
- Tweezers to remove stingers
- Muzzle (an excited pet may harm you)
- Pet carrier

CALL FOR HELP 888-426-4435

If you think your pet has ingested a poisonous substance, call your veterinarian or the ASPCA® Animal Poison Control Center and be ready with:

- Your name, address and phone number
- Details about the exposure
- The product container, if available
- Species, breed, age, sex, weight and number of pets involved
- Symptoms your pet is experiencing

A consultation fee may apply when you call the APCC hotline.

For a FREE ASPCA® Animal Poison Control Center reminder magnet call 888-426-4911 or go to www.apcc.aspc.org/magnet.

In case of emergency, contact:

ASPCA® Headquarters
424 East 92nd Street • New York, NY 10128
(212) 876-7700 • aspc.org



How To Keep Your Pet Out of a Poisonous Situation

Animal Poison Control Center



OUT OF HARM'S WAY

Toxic chemicals, dangerous plants, as well as products and substances found in our everyday surroundings can be poisonous or even fatal to animals. Unfortunately, a pet can ingest a household chemical, lap up a liquid, or chew on a seemingly harmless plant—and become sick or even die.

That's why the ASPCA® Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) provides emergency hotline services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The Premier Poison Control Center for Animals in North America

Established in 1978 at the University of Illinois, the APCC is the only poison control center in North America dedicated solely to animals. Our hotline is staffed by full-time veterinarians, including board-certified veterinary toxicologists, who have years of specialized knowledge in treating exposure to dangerous plants, pesticides, pharmaceuticals and products that can be hazardous to pets.

We hope the tips and facts in this brochure will make your life as a pet owner more enjoyable, less stressful and will, most importantly, help to protect your pet from harmful situations.



www.aspc.org/apcc

POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS PLANTS

Many plants and trees can be harmful to pets if ingested.

Cardiotoxic plants that affect the heart include lily of the valley, oleander, rhododendron, azalea, yew, foxglove and kalanchoe.

Plants that can cause kidney failure include rhubarb leaves and shamrock; and especially lilies in cats.

Plants that can cause liver failure include sago palms, cycad palms and some species of mushrooms.

Plants that can cause multiple effects include corn plant, ribbon plant and other *Dracaena* species, which can cause abdominal pain, vomiting (occasionally tinged with blood), depression, weakness, drooling, loss of appetite, incoordination, dilated pupils, difficulty breathing and elevated heart rate. Castor bean (*Ricinus* species) can cause renal failure, convulsions and death.



COMMON HOUSEHOLD HAZARDS

KITCHEN/BATHROOM

Trash: Coffee grounds contain caffeine, which can cause increased heart rate, hyperactivity, shaking or seizures.

Foods: Grapes and raisins can cause acute renal failure and possibly death in pets. Some pets will start with throwing up and drink a lot of water, then develop diarrhea, renal failure or death. Other potentially harmful foods include chocolate, yeast dough, avocado, alcoholic beverages, tea, macadamia nuts, onions, salt, fatty foods and foods containing the sweetener xylitol.

Painkillers & Medications: Can be deadly to pets. Never give your pet medication of any kind unless directed to do so by a veterinarian.

Soaps, Detergents & Cleansers: Can cause upset stomach, drooling, vomiting or diarrhea. Bleaches can cause severe oral burns and irritation to the respiratory tract.

It may surprise you how many substances found in and around your home can be dangerous to your pet.

BEDROOM/LIVING ROOM

Mothballs: Can cause vomiting, lethargy, seizures, hemolytic anemia and even death. Ingestion of even one mothball in a small pet can cause serious signs.

Batteries: Can cause oral ulcers, burns, perforation or blockage of the gastrointestinal tract.

GARAGE/YARD

Antifreeze: Can be fatal to dogs and cats, even in very small amounts.

Gasoline: Can irritate skin and mucous membranes. Exposure can lead to central nervous system depression, vomiting, drooling, diarrhea and aspiration.

Insecticides & herbicides: Many of these chemicals can sicken or kill pets. Always follow label directions; keep pet away from area of application for time recommended.

Glues & adhesives: Can cause upset stomach. Some types of expanding glues, if ingested, may require surgery to remove obstruction and prevent death.

To learn more about common household toxins and ways to prevent accidental poisonings, tour the interactive house at www.apcc.aspc.org.

For listings of toxic and non-toxic plants, and tips from our veterinary specialists, go to www.apcc.aspc.org.

More information about the ASPCA can be found online at www.aspc.org. To donate to ASPCA, please go to www.aspc.org/donate.

