

Pet Poison Safety Tips

Please follow these guidelines to protect your animals from being exposed.

Be aware of the plants you have in your home and yard. The ingestion of many varieties can be fatal – see list below:

Aloe	Deadly Nightshade (See Nightshade)	Lantana
Amaryllis	Easter Lily	Lacy Tree
Andromeda Japonica	Elephant Ears	Lily of the Valley
Angel Trumpet (Datura)	Emerald Feather (aka Emerald Fern)	Macadamia Nut
Asian Lily (Liliaceae)	Emerald Fern (aka Emerald Feather)	Madagascar Dragon Tree
Asparagus Fern	English Ivy	Marble Queen
Australian Nut	Fiddle-Leaf Philodendron	Marijuana
Autumn Crocus	Flamingo Plant	Mauna Loa Peace Lily (aka Peace Lily)
Avocado	Florida Beauty	Mexican Breadfruit
Azalea	Foxglove	Mistletoe "American"
Bird of Paradise	Fruit Salad Plant	Morning Glory
American Bittersweet	Glacier Ivy	Mother-in-Law
European Bittersweet	Gladiolas	Narcissus
Branching Ivy	Glory Lily	Needlepoint Ivy
Buckeye	Gold Dieffenbachia	Nephthytis
Buddist Pine	Gold Dust Dracaena	Nightshade
Caladium	Golden Pothos	Oleander
Calla Lily	Green Gold Nephthysis	Onion
Castor Bean	Hahn's self branching English Ivy	Orange Day Lily
Ceriman (aka Cutleaf Philodendron)	Heartleaf Philodendron	Panda
Charming Diffenbachia	Heavenly Bamboo	Peace Lily (aka Maana Loa Peace Lily)
Chinaberry Tree	Holly	Philodendron Pertusum
Chinese Evergreen	Horsehead	Plumosa Fern
Christmas Rose	Philodendron	Precatory Bean
Clematis	Hurricane Plant	Queensland Nut
Cordatum	Hyacinth	Red Emerald
Corn Plant (aka Cornstalk Plant)	Hydrangea	Red Lily
Cornstalk Plant (aka Corn Plant)	Iris	Red-Margined
Cutleaf Philodendron (aka Ceriman)	Japanese Show Lily	Dracaena (aka Straight-Margined Dracaena)
Cycads	Japanese Yew (aka Yew)	Red Princess
Cyclamen	Jerusalem Cherry	Rhododendron
Daffodil	Kalanchoe	Ribbon Plant (Dracaena sanderiana)
Day Lily	Lace Fern	Rubrum Lily
Devil's Ivy		Saddle Leaf
Dumb Cane		Philodendron

Sago Palm	Taro Vine	Variable Dieffenbachia
Satin Pothos	Tiger Lily	Variegated
Schefflera	Tomato Plant	Philodendron
Spotted Dumb Cane	Tree Philodendron	Warneckeii Dracaena
Stargazer Lily	Tropic Snow Dumbcane	Wood Lily
Striped Dracaena	Tulip	Yew (aka Japanese Yew)
Sweetheart Ivy		Yucca
Swiss Cheese Plant		

When poison-proofing your home, be sure to get down to your pets' level to see their point of view. While everything may look safe from your perspective, your pets may be able to get into areas you can't see. Be as vigilant at poison-proofing your house for a pet as you would be for a child. Keep cleaning products in a high, closed cabinet. There should be nothing below counter level because liquid drain cleaners, as well as tub and tile cleaners, can be lethal. Also, take precautions in the garage. Bags of insecticide and auto care liquids need to be stored high off the ground.

Never allow your pets to have access to the areas in which cleaning agents are being used or stored. Cleaning agents have a variety of properties. Some may only cause mild stomach upset, but others can cause severe burns of the tongue, mouth and stomach.

When using rat, mouse, snail or slug baits or ant or roach traps, place the products in areas that are inaccessible to your companion animals. Most bait contains sweet-smelling ingredients, such as jelly, peanut butter or sugar that can attract your pets. Also be careful your pets do not eat the dead pests as the poison in the pest may also affect your pet.

Never give your companion animals medication for humans unless you are directed to do so by a veterinarian. Many medications that are safe for humans can be deadly for animals.

Keep all prescription and over-the-counter drugs out of your pet's reach, preferably in closed cabinets. Both over-the-counter and prescriptions drugs can be a problem. Very common over-the-counter painkillers such as Advil, Motrin and Tylenol, pseudoephedrine and human doses of prescription drugs for depression such as Prozac and Effexor can be toxic to pets.

Painkillers, cold medications, anti-cancer drugs, antidepressants, vitamins and diet pills are all examples of human medications that can be lethal to animals, even in small doses.

If your dog bites into an asthma inhaler, it has the potential to result in acute, life-threatening poisoning. Inhalers contain highly-concentrated doses of drugs such as albuterol (a beta-agonist) and fluticasone (a steroid). If a dog punctures an inhaler by biting or gnawing it, s/he can be exposed to a massive single dose of a powerful drug which can bring on vomiting, agitation, heart arrhythmia, collapse and death.

A handbag or similar item lying open with contents exposed can prove an irresistible temptation to a confined, curious and perhaps slightly bored pet. Some items in a purse or handbag that can harm your dog are: human medications and/or human pills that come in bottles, which can sound like the noise some dog toys make; gum and mints; small bottles

of hand sanitizer; and cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, and other products containing nicotine. A small dog can die from ingesting just three cigarettes, depending on the brand. Chewing tobacco is also toxic to dogs and cats, and so are stop-smoking products like nicotine gum. Signs of nicotine poisoning come on quickly and include elevated heart and respiratory rates, neurological symptoms, loss of bladder or bowel control, tremors, seizures, paralysis and death.

Never leave chocolate unattended. Even small amounts can cause problems, particularly dark chocolate.

“Sugarless” artificially-sweetened gum and mints contain xylitol, a sugar substitute highly toxic to dogs. Even a small amount of xylitol can result in a dangerous blood sugar crash in canines, and larger amounts can lead to liver failure. Symptoms of xylitol poisoning include vomiting, weakness, collapse, shaking and seizures. In addition to gum, mints and other sugarless candy, xylitol is commonly found in chewable vitamins, certain prescription drugs, dental hygiene products, nicotine gum and baked goods.

Some human foods can be harmful to animals as well. Onions, onion powder, garlic, mushrooms, corn cobs, grapes and raisins, in even small quantities, can be fatal. Cooked bones are very dangerous. They can lodge in a dog’s passageways or puncture its intestines.

Baby diapers and kitty litter, if ingested, can cause death.

Many common household items can be lethal to animals. Mothballs, potpourri oils, coffee grounds, homemade play dough, fabric softener sheets, dishwashing detergent, batteries, cigarettes, alcoholic drinks and hand and foot warmers are all highly toxic, even in small quantities.

Automotive products such as gasoline, oil and especially antifreeze should be stored in areas that are inaccessible to your pets. As little as 1 teaspoon of antifreeze can be deadly to a cat weighing seven pounds; less than 1 tablespoon can be lethal to a dog weighing 20 pounds.

Before buying a flea product for use on your companion animal, ask your veterinarian for a recommendation. Read all of the information on the label before using a product on your pet or in your home. Always follow directions. If a product is for use only on dogs, it should never be used on cats; if a product is for use only on cats, it should never be used on dogs.

Make sure your companion animals do not enter areas in which foggers or house sprays have been used for the period of time indicated on the label.

Make sure your pets do not go on lawns or in gardens treated with fertilizers, herbicides or insecticides until they have dried completely. Always store such products in areas that are inaccessible to your companion animals.

If you are uncertain about the usage of any product, ask the manufacturer and/or your veterinarian for instructions.

Be prepared

Post your veterinarian's telephone number in a convenient location. You should also post the address and number of a nearby emergency clinic, along with the number of the National Animal Poison Control Center (NAPCC), which is (888) 426-4435.

There is a dedicated resource for animal poison emergencies at the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center. This is the only dedicated animal poison control hotline in the world manned by veterinarians, not telephone operators. The number is staffed **24/7** at **(888) 4ANI-HELP** or **(888) 426-4435**. The fee is \$65 per case, including as many follow-up calls as necessary, and it could save your pet's life.