

Pet Poison Safety Tips

Please follow these guidelines to protect your companion 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:

Amaryllis	Andromeda	Arrowgrass
Avocado	Azalea	Bittersweet
Boxwood	Buttercup	Caladium
Castor Bean	Cherry Pits	Chokeberry
Climbing Lily	Crown of Thorns	Daffodil bulbs
Daphne	Dieffenbachia	Dumb cane
Elephant Ear	English Ivy	Elderberry
Foxglove	Grapes	Hemlock
Holly	Hyacinth bulb	Hydrangea
Japanese yew	Jasmine berries	Jerusalem Cherry
Larkspur	Laurel	Marijuana
Mistletoe berries	Monkshood	Mushrooms
Narcissus bulb	Nightshade	Oleander
Peach	Philodendron	Poison Ivy
Privet	Rhododendron	Rhubarb
Stinging Nettle	Toadstool	Snow on the Mountain
Tobacco	Tulip bulb	Wisteria
Yew		

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.

Never give your companion animals medication unless you are directed to do so by a veterinarian. Many medications that are safe for humans can be deadly for animals. For example, one 500mg acetaminophen tablet can kill a cat weighing seven pounds.

Keep all prescription and over-the-counter drugs out of your pets' reach, preferably in closed cabinets.

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. For example, one 200mg ibuprofen tablet can cause stomach ulcers in a dog weighing 10 pounds.

Never leave chocolate unattended. Even small amounts can cause problems.

Some human foods can be harmful to animals as well. Onions, onion powder, garlic, mushrooms, and it is proven now that grapes and raisins, in even small quantities can be fatal.

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 antifreeze should be stored in areas that are inaccessible to your pets. As little as one teaspoon of antifreeze can be deadly to a cat weighing seven pounds; less than one 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.

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 \$50 per case, including as many follow up calls as necessary, and it could save your pet's life.

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