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

Narcissus	(aka Straight-	Sweetheart Ivy
Needlepoint Ivy	Margined Dracaena)	Swiss Cheese Plant
Nephthytis	Red Princess	Taro Vine
Nightshade	Rhododendron	Tiger Lily
Oleander	Ribbon Plant	Tomato Plant
Onion	(Dracaena	Tree Philodendron
Orange Day Lily	sanderiana)	Tropic Snow Dumbcane
Panda	Rubrum Lily	Tulip
Peace Lily (aka Maana	Saddle Leaf	Variable Dieffenbachia
Loa Peace Lily)	Philodendron	Variegated Philodendron
Philodendron Pertusum	Sago Palm	Warnecke Dracaena
Plumosa Fern	Satin Pothos	Wood Lily
Precatory Bean	Schefflera	Yew (aka Japanese
Queensland Nut	Spotted Dumb Cane	Yew)
Red Emerald	Stargazer Lily	Yucca
Red Lily	Striped Dracaena	
Red-Margined Dracaena		

When poison-proofing your home, be sure to get down to your pet's 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 prescription 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, they 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 (sometimes also referred to as birch sugar), 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 one teaspoon of antifreeze can be deadly to a cat weighing 7 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 the re-entry interval (REI) as indicated on the product label has passed. 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 could 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.