

Preventing an Accidental Pet Poisoning

Pets are naturally curious creatures. They can't resist toppling over the trash can or rooting through your backpack to search for tasty treats. The habit can lead to illness or even death if your cat or dog consumes poisonous or toxic food or chemicals. Fortunately, keeping your pet safe from accidental poisoning can be as simple as following these steps.

Place Medication in a Secure Location

Put all medications in a safe, secure location to prevent accidental poisonings in both kids and pets. Even over-the-counter medications can cause serious health issues for animals. Taking acetaminophen or ibuprofen may help your aches and pains, but the medications can cause kidney or liver failure in cats and dogs. Hormone lotions and creams can be toxic as well so watch what's in any lotions you or your older relatives may use, as dogs like to lick you...

The Pet Poison Helpline reports that it receives the highest number of calls from pet owners regarding antidepressant ingestion, which can cause tremors, seizures, lethargy, and incoordination in animals.

Keep These Foods Away from Your Pets

The foods that you enjoy aren't always safe for animals. These five foods can cause illness in pets:

- **Onions** . Consuming foods with fresh, dried or powdered onions, leek, scallions, chives or shallots can damage your pet's red blood cells, affecting their ability to transport oxygen efficiently. Prompt treatment after consuming these

foods is crucial and may help your pet avoid organ failure or damage or death.

- **Chocolate.** Chocolate contains caffeine and theobromine, substances that are toxic to pets. Dark and baking chocolate have the highest levels of theobromine.
- **Grapes and Raisins.** Although you may enjoy snacking on grapes and raisins, the foods can cause kidney failure and death in pets.
- **Beverages That Contain Caffeine.** Coffee, tea, soda, and energy drinks aren't safe for pets and may cause vomiting, elevated heart rate, high blood pressure or death. Teabags, loose tea, coffee grounds, and coffee beans are particularly dangerous, as they contain high concentrations of caffeine.
- **Sugar-Free Foods That Contain Xylitol.** Xylitol, a sugar alcohol used to flavor sugar-free gums, mints, toothpaste, vitamins, baked goods, certain liquid medicines from Vets or over the counter that are used for pets as well as people..., certain brands of peanut butter, and other products, can be deadly to pets. Keep these products out of the reach of your pets.
- Make SURE your children are aware that sharing their sugar free items or leaving them within reach of a nosy boxer, could kill the dog.

- **Choose Safe Plants**

- Even a small bite of a plant can make your pet ill or even cause death in some cases. Before you buy an indoor plant or add a new plant to your landscape, make sure it won't harm your pet. The Pet Poison Helpline lists these 10 plants as the most poisonous to pets:

- Autumn Crocus

- Azalea
- Cyclamen
- Kalanchoe
- Some Varieties of Lilies
- Oleander
- Dieffenbachia
- Daffodils
- Hyacinths
- Lily of the Valley
- Sago Palm
- Tulips
- Various unknown mushrooms growing in your yard can be toxic and some even deadly. Several of the most toxic mushrooms, are in the Amanita species. The chemicals in at least 4 of the toxic Amanita mushrooms are ISOXAZOLE derivatives. Guess what else are in the ISOXAZOLE chemical family that VETs actually give to pets? Yup the newer flea and tick chews and topicals, bravecto, nexgard, nexgard spectra, simparica, credialio and Revolution Plus, and many of the reported side effect symptoms from the flea products, are the same as reported for mushroom poisoning.. nausea, vomiting, confusion, visual problems, various neurological problems, including seizures and death. The destruction of kidney's and liver begins 6-24 hours after ingestion of the mushrooms in the Isoxazole family. Many of the pets given the toxic flea products end up with kidney and liver failure as well...some dogs may appear to get better for a bit and then relapse - same thing happens with the mushroom poisoning. That's just some interesting info I came across in published studies and the North American Mycological Association organizations website.

Use Pet-Safe Antifreeze

Pets like the sweet taste of antifreeze, but consuming even a small amount can cause death. Pet-safe antifreeze offers a better solution. Ethylene glycol, the deadly ingredient in antifreeze, can also be found in ink (both pen and printer ink), snow globes, eye masks and some types of paints. If these items spill, wipe them up immediately to prevent poisoning.

Find a Safe Place to Store Cleaning and Household Products

Consuming cleaners and other household products, including laundry detergent pods, pest control, (that includes the Flea and tick products your Vet sells you that have no antidote- though they'll deny it), there are also some rat poisons that have no antidote, beware, and cleaning products, skincare items, sunscreen, ointments, fertilizers, and paints, caulks and stains can sicken your pet. Keep all products, even those labeled "natural," in a closed, secure cabinet, and put away the products as soon as you've finished using them.

When to Call the Veterinarian

Contact the veterinarian immediately if your pet consumes a toxic or poisonous substance. Unfortunately, pets don't always eat dangerous foods or products in your presence. If your pet develops any of these signs and symptoms, poisoning may have occurred:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Trouble Breathing
- Racing Heartbeat

- Excessive Thirst
- Frequent Urination
- Weakness
- Seizures
- Collapse
- Muscle Tremors
- Pale Gums

Take your pet to the veterinarian immediately if you notice any of these signs or symptoms. If you know what the culprit was, take it with you as many times the Vets themselves have to call poison control to get the best course of treatment, so if they have the product with the ingredients listed in front of them, treatment can be started quicker... The sooner your pet receives treatment, the better the chances of a full recovery.