



BROOKLYN PARK

PET HOSPITAL

Dedicated to every pet. Every time.

Preventing Pet Poisoning Emergencies

Top 10 Toxins and Poisons Common household items such as plants, foods and chemicals can harm your pet if ingested. Each year, thousands of pets suffer and many die from accidental household poisoning. Do you know what the top 10 pet toxins and poisons are in your home?

Dogs

1. Chocolate
2. Mouse and rat poisons (rodenticides)
3. Vitamins and minerals (e.g. vitamin D, iron)
4. Human and veterinary pain relievers
5. Heart medications (e.g. calcium channel blockers, beta blockers)
6. Cold and allergy medications (e.g. pseudoephedrine phenylephrine)
7. Antidepressants (e.g. selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors)
8. Xylitol (e.g. sugar-free gum)
9. Acetaminophen (e.g. Tylenol®)
10. Caffeine pills

Cats

1. Topical spot-on insecticides
2. Household cleaners
3. Antidepressants
4. Lilies
5. Insoluble oxalate plants (e.g. dieffenbachia, philodendron)
6. Human and veterinary pain relievers
7. Acetaminophen (e.g. Tylenol®)
8. Glow sticks
9. ADD/ADHD medications/amphetamines
10. Mouse and rat poisons (rodenticides)

Contact Pet Poison Helpline If you suspect that your pet has ingested something harmful, seek immediate veterinary attention or call Pet Poison Helpline (855-289-0358). PPH is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. There is a one-time, per-incident consultation fee.

* Be sure to have the following information ready when calling:

- What your pet ingested and when
- How much your pet ingested (how many pills, what milligram strength they were, etc.)
- Pet's current weight
- Pet's known medical history, including any medications (prescriptions and supplements) 855- 289-0358 Pet Poison Helpline www.petpoisonhelpline.com

I Think My Pet's been Poisoned. What Should I Do? What Should I Not Do?

In the event of a pet poisoning emergency, remain calm. It's important that you keep a level head so that you can properly assess the situation and communicate clearly with your veterinarian.

Scan the Surroundings

Get a handle on the situation by following these guidelines:

- Safely remove any remaining poisonous material from your pet's reach.
- Gather the container or substance to bring to the veterinary hospital or to describe to the Pet Poison Helpline expert.
- Collect a sample of any material that your pet may have vomited.

If your pet has ingested something that could be harmful, the likelihood of recovery is always better when you act immediately. It's safer for your pet and less expensive to treat before your pet has developed symptoms. That's because decontamination (like inducing vomiting, having the stomach pumped, or administering activated charcoal) can only be performed within a narrow window of time. Even if your pet is not immediately exhibiting signs of poisoning, it's important to seek professional advice if you suspect that your pet has ingested a poisonous substance.

To vomit or not to vomit

Many people assume that they should induce vomiting if their pet has ingested something poisonous. However, forcing your pet to vomit could actually cause more harm or even be dangerous if done improperly or at the wrong time.

Keep these guidelines in mind:

- If your pet is already showing signs of poisoning, it's too late to induce vomiting.
- If your pet has certain medical problems (like laryngeal paralysis or brachycephalic syndrome), inducing vomiting is not recommended and can make your pet's condition worse.
- Certain toxins (such as corrosive cleaners, and hydrocarbons such as gasoline, paint thinners and kerosene) should NOT be brought back up. Inducing vomiting after the ingestion of these products may ultimately cause more harm than good.

Most importantly, always seek veterinary advice before administering any kind of treatment yourself

Transporting a Poisoned Pet

Handling an ill animal requires extra precautions to ensure the safety of both you and your pet. If your pet is sedate, carefully transport him to the car or, better yet, have someone drive while you watch your pet. In rare circumstances when your pet may have ingested a specific type of gopher or mole poison (zinc phosphide), contact Pet Poison Helpline before attempting to administer first aid, as byproducts of these poisons can be extremely harmful to humans too.

Get help

If your pet is unconscious, convulsing or having difficulty breathing, go immediately to the nearest emergency veterinary hospital.

Poisoning First Aid Kit

Have an emergency first aid kit at home in case of a poisoning emergency. Keeping these items on hand will make it easier for you to work with the Pet Poison Helpline experts.

- Hydrogen peroxide 3% (non-expired)
- Liquid dishwashing detergent (such as Palmolive® or Dawn®)
- Rubber gloves
- Triple antibiotic ointment (such as Neosporin®)
- Vitamin E oil or capsules • Diphenhydramine liquid or 25 mg tablets (such as Benadryl®), with no other combination ingredients
- Ophthalmic saline solution or artificial tears, with no other combination ingredients
- Can of tuna packed in water, chicken broth or some type of tasty canned pet food
- Corn syrup

Poisonous Plants

Lovely as they are, some plants are poisonous to pets if ingested. Many plants cause toxicity in animals, but the following are some of the most common—and some can even be deadly.

- **Autumn Crocus** Though both spring and autumn crocuses can cause poisoning in pets, the autumn crocus is much more toxic. If ingested, this plant can cause severe vomiting, gastrointestinal bleeding, liver and kidney damage and bone marrow suppression.
- **Azalea** Azaleas, which are in the same family as rhododendrons, can have serious effects on pets. Eating even a few leaves can result in vomiting, diarrhea and excessive drooling; without immediate veterinary attention, the pet could go into shock and seizure.
- **Cyclamen** If ingested, this seasonal flowering plant can result in drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, abnormal heart rhythms and seizures.
- **Daffodil Bulbs** Ingestion of a daffodil bulb, plant or flower can cause severe vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain. More rare, serious reactions include abnormal heart rate or changes in respiration.
- **Dieffenbachia** Popular in many homes and offices, dieffenbachia can cause intense oral irritation, drooling, nausea, vomiting and difficulty swallowing if ingested.
- **Hyacinth/Tulip Bulbs** Though all parts of hyacinths and tulips can cause adverse reactions if ingested, these plants contain concentrated amounts of the toxins in the bulb. If ingested in large amounts, bulbs can cause severe vomiting, diarrhea and an increase in heart rate.
- **Kalanchoe** This popular flowering succulent plant can cause vomiting, diarrhea and heart arrhythmias if ingested by pets.

- **Lily** Certain types of lilies—including tiger, day, Asiatic, Easter and Japanese lilies—are highly toxic to cats. Severe kidney failure can result from ingestion of even a few petals or leaves. If your cat has eaten any part of a lily, see a veterinarian immediately.
- **Oleander** Oleander is an outdoor shrub, popular for its evergreen qualities and delicate flowers. However, the leaves and flowers are extremely toxic if ingested and can cause severe vomiting, slow the heart rate and possibly even cause death.
- **Sago Palm** Very popular in warmer climates, this household and outdoor plant can be very harmful to pets. If ingested, the leaves and seeds can cause vomiting, bloody stools, damage to the stomach lining, severe liver failure and, in some cases, death.

This is only a partial list of poisonous plants. If you're interested in a certain kind of plant for your home or yard but aren't sure if it's pet-friendly, visit petpoisonhelpline.com/poisons/ for a more complete listing.

Garden Dangers

In addition to poisonous plants, gardens can pose a number of poisoning hazards. Be a garden guardian—keep these substances away from pets.

Baits Rodent, snail and slug baits are often used to keep pests at bay. But if ingested, these poisons are extremely harmful to pets. They are highly toxic and, without immediate veterinary attention, can be fatal. Typically, rodent baits can result in blood clotting disorders, brain swelling, kidney failure or severe gastrointestinal signs (depending on which type is used), while snail and slug baits can result in severe tremors or seizures.

Blood Meal Used as an organic fertilizer, blood meal is flash-frozen animal blood that has been dried and ground. Unfortunately, many pets find this product very tasty and may even seek it out. If a large amount is ingested, it can cause vomiting, diarrhea and severe inflammation of the pancreas.

Bone Meal Bone meal is an organic fertilizer made from animal bones that have been ground to a powder. The “bone” is what makes it so palatable to dogs—but when ingested, bone meal can form a large, concrete-like obstruction in the stomach that could require surgical removal.

Insecticides Most over-the-counter insecticides are basic gastrointestinal irritants to pets and are generally not cause for major concern. However, some are combined with dangerous chemicals and compounds called organophosphates or carbamates, which can be harmful to pets. Ingestion of these substances can result in drooling, watery eyes, urination, defecation, seizures, difficulty breathing and even death. Immediate treatment with the antidote atropine is necessary to improve your pet's chance of survival.

Fertilizers Many fertilizers are basic gastrointestinal irritants to pets. But if your pet has ingested any type of fertilizer, it's better to be safe than sorry—seek veterinary advice right away to make sure your pet is safe.

Household Toxins

Cleaning solutions, antifreeze, fragrance sprays and other common household chemicals are often stored under sinks or on garage shelves where pets can gain easy access. Be sure there is adequate ventilation when using any chemicals, thoroughly wipe up any spills, tightly close any bottles or containers and stow them safely in cabinets that pets cannot pry open. Keep the following toxic household chemicals out of reach from your pets:

- Acids (such as drain and toilet cleaners)
- Alkalis (such as ammonia, lye and some types of drain and toilet cleaners)
- Batteries
- Bleach
- Enzymatic cleaners (used for breaking down proteins and organic matter)
- Glow jewelry
- Hydrocarbons (such as gasoline and motor oil)
- Ice melt products that contain sodium or salt-like ingredients
- Liquid potpourri
- Mothballs
- Paint solvents and lacquers
- Paint balls
- Pine oil/essential oils
- Solvents (such as cleaners used to remove oil, grease and grime)
- Teflon® -coated cookware (birds only—see “Inhaled Poisons” on page 10) Household Toxins 9 Poisons aren’t always ingested; some can be inhaled or even absorbed through the

Non-Ingested Poisons

Poisons aren’t always ingested; some can be inhaled or even absorbed through the skin. Protect your pet by being aware of these common pet health hazards.

Inhaled Poisons Carbon monoxide, smoke and chemical fumes are all forms of inhaled poisons.

Exposure can result in coughing, disorientation or unconsciousness. If your pet has inhaled any sort of airborne toxin, move him to fresh air immediately and contact your veterinarian or Pet Poison Helpline.

- Before an inhalation emergency occurs, install carbon monoxide and smoke detectors in each room of your house, and be sure to change the batteries every year.
- When using products that emit vapors— such as paint or cleaning solutions— be sure there is adequate ventilation in the room.
- Consider learning pet CPR; ask your veterinarian or local community center if a pet first aid class is available.
- If you have a bird, never use Teflon coated pots and pans, as they emit polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) fumes when overheated, which are fatal to our avian friends if inhaled. Alternative non-stick cookware options that do not contain PTFE are available in many kitchen supply stores

Absorbed Poisons

Certain poisons and toxins can enter the body through the skin. Commonly absorbed poisons include strong acids/alkalis (such as ammonia, lye and some types of drain and toilet cleaners) and topical insecticides.

- Examples of this include canine spot-on flea/tick products that are applied to cats or concentrated tea tree oil applied to both dogs and cats. Signs range from skin irritation to difficulty walking/balancing, tremors and seizures.
- When outdoors, be aware of any chemicals used by neighbors or maintenance crews, like fertilizers or pesticides. Use soap and water to thoroughly clean your pet's belly, legs and feet in order to get rid of any chemical residue that could be absorbed, licked or rubbed onto bedding. Ice-melt products can be of concern in the winter; the salt crystals can stick to pets' feet, causing skin irritation and discomfort.

Toxic Table Scraps

Sharing "just a bite" of food off your plate with your pet is harmless, right? Wrong. Many human foods can be dangerous— even deadly—to dogs and cats.

Alcohol Alcohol is absorbed rapidly into the bloodstream and affects pets quickly. Alcohol ingestion can cause dangerous drops in blood sugar, blood pressure and body temperature. Intoxicated animals can experience seizures and respiratory failure. The culprits are often products such as desserts containing alcohol or unbaked dough made with yeast.

Caffeine Coffee, tea, energy drinks, dietary pills, stimulants (such as NoDoz®) or anything else containing caffeine should never be given to your pet, as they can affect the heart, stomach, intestines and nervous system.

Chocolate Cocoa and chocolate contain theobromine, a chemical that is highly toxic to dogs. Ingestion of small amounts can cause vomiting and diarrhea, but ingestion of larger quantities can affect heart rhythm and cause seizures.

Fatty Foods Foods that are high in fat can cause vomiting, diarrhea and severe inflammation of the pancreas in pets—especially in certain predisposed breeds like miniature schnauzers, Shetland sheepdogs and Yorkshire terriers. Fight the temptation to share these kinds of table scraps and give a healthy pet treat instead.

Grapes, Raisins and Currants Avoid the wrath of grapes—keep them away from dogs. Just a few grapes, raisins or currants can damage your dog's kidneys or even prove deadly. Even small amounts of raisins in trail mix or snack boxes can pose a problem.

Macadamia Nuts Popular in many cookies and candies, macadamia nuts should never be given to pets. Lethargy, vomiting, loss of muscle control and severe inflammation of the pancreas are among the effects of macadamia nut ingestion.

Onions and Garlic Onions and garlic in any form—even powdered— can endanger your pet's health. Ingestion of small amounts can result in a mild gastrointestinal upset, while larger amounts can cause severe anemia, particularly with long-term ingestion (like sprinkling it on your pet's food).

Salt Believe it or not, common table salt is poisonous to your pet—but it's not usually from table scraps. The source is often what surprises pet owners: Pets often experience salt toxicity as a result of eating homemade play dough, swallowing too much ocean salt water or ingesting paint balls. Salt toxicity can

be very severe and results in neurologic signs such as incoordination, seizures and brain swelling, and needs to be treated carefully by a veterinarian.

Sweeteners Many sugarless gums, candies, multivitamins and baked goods contain xylitol, a natural sweetener that is acutely toxic to dogs. Ingestion can cause vomiting, weakness, a life-threatening drop in blood sugar, loss of muscle control, seizures and liver failure.

Yeast Dough Unbaked dough that contains yeast can expand in your pet's stomach or intestines. As the yeast ferments, it releases gases, resulting in nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and even life-threatening bloat and a twisted stomach. Some yeast dough also ferments into alcohol, which contributes to signs of lethargy and alcohol toxicity

If your pet accidentally ingests any of these foods, or if you have a question about something your pet has eaten, contact your veterinarian or the Pet Poison Helpline for immediate help.

Medications

Whether your pet overdoses on, has an adverse reaction to, or accidentally ingests medication, drug toxicity is a serious matter. Human and pet medications both pose risks to pets.

Human Medications

Many pets can't seem to resist human medications that have been flavored to be more palatable. Medications like candy-coated pain relievers, chocolate-flavored vitamins or sweetened cough syrups can be irresistible to pets, so be sure to keep these kinds of drugs safely out of reach.

Never give your pet human pain relievers— in brand name or generic forms—like acetaminophen (Tylenol® or Excedrin®), or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) medications like aspirin, ibuprofen (Advil®) or naproxen (Aleve®). Pets do not metabolize these drugs like humans do, and liver and kidney failure can result, putting your pet's life at risk. Always read your pet's medication bottle or label carefully. One of the most common accidental pet overdoses occurs when pet owners place their own medication on the counter with their pet's medication. Inadvertent administration of your human drugs to your pet can be easily avoided by keeping them in separate locations and by dosing carefully. Take extra precautions to ensure that all medications stay out of your pet's reach.

Make sure to store medication bottles in secure, raised bathroom cabinets. Unfortunately, even child-proof caps aren't dog-proof, due to those sharp teeth. Finally, properly dispose of expired medications.

Pet Medications

Accidental administration of a dog topical flea product onto a cat can result in life-threatening seizures; avoid this by reading the instructions carefully before applying these types of products.

Never split medications or doses without talking to your veterinarian first. Buying a topical flea ointment for large dogs and splitting the dose for two smaller dogs is never advised and can result in accidental overdoses. Also, don't reuse medications on other pets in the household.

Rarely, drug reactions can occur even with the appropriate dosing and administration. If you ever notice any problems, contact your veterinarian, the drug company or Pet Poison Helpline immediately to find out how best to treat the reaction.

Pet-Proof Your Home

With a little extra effort, you can easily poison-proof your home. These simple tips can help you protect your pet and avoid poisoning emergencies.

- Cover trash bins—or better yet, store them in a pantry or closet.
- Fence off compost bins—for the sake of your pet and the wildlife!
- Install baby locks on cabinets that house cleaning solutions. • Store medications in secure, elevated cabinets.
- Don't store pills in plastic zipper bags or weekly pill storage containers, as these are easy for dogs to chew through.
- Close toilet lids, especially if you use automatic or clip-on toilet bowl cleaners.
- Check petpoisonhelpline.com/poisons/ before purchasing plants for your home or yard to ensure that you have non-toxic plants in your household.
- Wipe down your pet's belly, legs and paws after being outdoors—particularly in the winter, when ice melters are on the road.
 - Keep your purse (and its contents, like xylitol gum, asthma inhalers and drug containers) out of your pet's reach.
- Double check the pills you're about to administer to your pet and to yourself; oftentimes, owners mix the two by accident.
- Don't leave pills out—even for a few seconds— as your pet could knock them off the counter and ingest them quickly.
- Sign up for a Veterinary Pet Insurance policy so you're prepared for the unexpected.