



If you suspect that your pet has ingested a toxic substance, contact your veterinarian, urgent care clinic, or animal poison control immediately.

ASPCA's Poison Control Hotline:
(888) 426-4435

Pet Poison Helpline:
(800) 213-6680



Oregon
Veterinary
Medical
Association

www.oregonvma.org

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Household Hazards

Help keep your pet safe by being aware of these household hazards:

Prescription Drugs and Over-the-Counter Medications

Accidental ingestion of drugs is the most common cause of animal poisoning. Store all medications securely and out of reach. Do not give your pet any over-the-counter medications meant for human consumption without your veterinarian's permission and never give acetaminophen to a dog or a cat; just two extra-strength tablets in 24 hours will most likely kill a small pet.

Household Cleaning Products

Products containing bleach can burn your pet's skin upon contact; many cleaners can be poisonous if ingested. Close cleaning product containers tightly when not in use and store securely. Keep toilet lids closed to prevent pets from drinking treated toilet water.

Fertilizers, Insecticides, Pesticides, Baits, Traps

Keep pets away from areas treated with fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides for 3-4 days. Pets who walk on treated surfaces and then lick their paws can be poisoned. Baits and traps for ants, rodents, snails and slugs are also toxic and should be kept inaccessible to pets.

Food

Potentially harmful foods include: coffee grounds, chocolate, tea, alcohol, hops, salt, onions and onion powder, grapes and raisins, avocado, garlic, macadamia nuts, and gum, candy or breath fresheners containing the sweetener xylitol. Also, keep pets away from garbage, as rotting food contains molds and bacteria that could be harmful.

Antifreeze

As little as one-half teaspoon can be toxic to a cat and just a quarter cup can kill a medium-size dog. Do not leave antifreeze unattended or allow it to spill in the garage or street. Use non-toxic antifreeze with a bittering agent to discourage pet consumption.

Flea Products

Use only products specifically designed for your dog or cat and make sure you administer the proper dosage. Flea treatments meant for dogs can be deadly if given to cats instead.

Tobacco

Tobacco products can cause excitement, salivation, vomiting, muscle weakness, and coma or death, and toxic effects can develop within minutes.

Plants

These plants are highly toxic to pets: foxglove, lily (particularly to cats), yew, sago palm, rhododendron, azalea, rhubarb (leaves), oleander, castor bean, and kalanchoe. If your pet ingests any of these, seek immediate medical care. A list of other poisonous plants can be found on our Web site at: www.oregonvma.org/petowners/plants.asp.

Other Hazards

These items can be harmful if swallowed or chewed on: pennies, buttons, alkaline batteries, mothballs, paints, solvents, electrical cords, and pet crate bolts made of zinc.

The Oregon Veterinary Medical Association is a nonprofit organization of veterinarians who are dedicated to helping people give their animals a high quality of life.