Household and Environmental Dangers to our Canine and Feline pets.

Presented by Animal Medical Clinic of Gulf Gate

[Website Link]

941-922-0756
Important Phone Numbers

• There are two 24 hour emergency animal poison control centers available to call:
• 1.) Pet poison helpline, 800-213-6680. There is currently a $49 dollar incident fee. www.petpoisonhelpline.com
• 2.) ASPCA, 888-426-4435. There is a $65 dollar consult fee. www.aspcapro.org/poison
• Both websites have a wealth of resources. The ASPCA Animal Poison control center has its own free app and the pet poison helpline has an app, pet poison help, available in the Apple store for $1.99.
Most Important!

• If there is a potential toxic ingestion or exposure with your pet, you must contact your vet or local emergency clinic. You may contact a pet poison helpline if an incident occurs during non-business hours for advice.
Cats versus Dogs!

- Cats represent only about 11% of all APCC calls, vs 88% deal with dogs. Some would say that this is because cats are smarter, but it is also because there are distinct species differences. Cats tend to be chewers or ingest less at a time in general than dogs, which are gulpers with more of a “potato chip mentality”.

- Cats lack sweet taste buds so they don’t tend to eat things like chocolate, but they often will nibble on potentially deadly agents, such as lily plants. Since cats like to jump to high places, they often will obtain dangerous things assumed to be out of reach. Because of their grooming behavior, if their skin is exposed to a dangerous agent they are also likely to receive an oral dose.

- Medically, cat RBC’s are structurally different than dogs and are more susceptible to oxidative damage. Also, cats lack effective liver enzymes to handle or detoxify certain drugs, so they are much more sensitive than dogs to handling human medications like pain relievers.
Edible Hazards

- **Chicken Bones/Turkey Bones**: can splinter and do all sorts of harm in the GI tract. In fact, cooked bones of any kind may be brittle and hazardous for your pet.

- **Fat Trimmings**: Table scraps often contain meat fat that a human didn't eat as well as bones. Both are dangerous for cats and dogs. The fat content of meat both cooked and uncooked, can cause pancreatitis.

- **Grapes & Raisins**: All grape or raisin products including their juice counterparts can potentially cause kidney failure. The toxic substance within grapes and raisins remains unknown even after screening for various pesticides, heavy metals and mycotoxins within them.
Edible Hazards

• **Chives, Garlic and Onions:** These vegetables and herbs can cause gastrointestinal irritation and could lead to red blood cell damage. Although cats are more susceptible, dogs are also at risk, if a large enough amount is consumed. An occasional low dose, such as what might be found in pet foods or treats, likely will not cause a problem, but pets should not be given large quantities of these foods.

• **Kitchen Pantry:** Many items found on kitchen shelves can harm your pet. For instance, baking powder and baking soda are both highly toxic. So are nutmeg and other spices. Keep food items high enough to be out of your dog's reach and keep pantry doors closed to help protect your dog from serious food-related illness.

• **Macadamia Nuts:** have caused weakness, depression, vomiting, and tremors, in dogs that could last approximately 12-48 hours or longer. It’s easy to forget about them if they’re in cookies and snacks that you may want to share with your pet so it’s best not to give them people food.
Edible hazards

• **Milk:** On a hot day, it may be tempting to share your ice cream cone with your pet. But if he or she could, they'd thank you for not doing so. Milk and milk-based products can cause diarrhea and other digestive upset. Some dogs also have allergies to dairy (which may show up as itchiness).

• **Raw yeast dough:** Cooked bread is usually ok for pets in small doses as a treat, except for raisin bread. Raw dough or raw yeast dough can be a serious danger however. Yeast can rise and cause excessive gas in the animals digestive system. This can be painful and cause the stomach or the intestines to twist which may cause a potential rupture.

• **Raw Meat/Undercooked or Eggs:** Raw meat and eggs can contain Salmonella and E.coli bacteria which may make your pet sick. In addition, raw eggs contain an enzyme called Avidin that decreases the absorption of biotin (a B vitamin) which can lead to skin and coat problems.
The Many Hiding Places of Xylitol!!

- Medications: Nasal Sprays, Vitamins, Fiber Supplements, Pet Medications, Compounded Medications
- Food: Drink Powder, Instant Coffee, Chewing Gum, BBQ Sauce, Ketchup, Candies, Chocolates, Pancake Syrup, Jam, Whey Protein Powder, Peanut Butter, Pudding
- Dental Health Products: Toothpaste, Chewing Gum, Breath Fresheners, Dental Floss, Mints, Dry Mouth Sprays, Mouthwash, Pet Dental Wash
- Personal Care: Baby Wipes, Baby Diapers, Nose & Face Wipes, Sunscreen, Lip Balm, Makeup (Foundation), Makeup Remover
Edible hazards

- **Salt:** It's not a good idea to share salty foods like chips or pretzels with your dog. Eating too much salt can cause excessive thirst and urination and potentially lead to sodium iodide poisoning. Symptoms of too much salt include vomiting, diarrhea, depression, tremors, elevated body temperature, and seizures. It may even cause death.

- **Xylitol:** is a sugar substitute that may be found in some peanut butter, yogurt, sugar-free gum, candies, breath mints, baked goods, cough syrup, children's chewable vitamins, mouthwash, and toothpaste, to list a few. Make sure to check labels. With cats and dogs, xylitol can lead to dangerous drops in blood sugar and could potentially cause liver failure.
Household Items

- **Antifreeze**: that contains ethylene glycol has a sweet taste that attracts animals but is deadly if consumed in even small quantities; one teaspoon can kill a seven-pound cat. Antifreeze that contains ethylene glycol is often a fluorescent green color. The HSUS recommends pet owners use a safer antifreeze in their vehicles. Look for antifreeze that contains propylene glycol, which is less dangerous for animals if ingested in small amounts. Fortunately we don’t have to worry to much about antifreeze here in FL. Ethylene glycol can also be found in common household products like snow globes, so be sure to keep these things out the reach of animals. Both types of antifreeze compounds can cause acidosis, mental depression and coma.

- **Batteries**: can be toxic to both cats and dogs, leading to ulcers in the mouth, esophagus and stomach.

- **Candles/Liquid potpourri**: Candles and liquid potpourri both have a lovely scent to us, and sometimes our pets like them just as much. Cats especially may get wax or liquid potpourri on their fur and lick it off leading to corrosive injuries and ulcers of the GI tract. If they ingest high concentrations of liquid potpourri it could lead to acute respiratory distress or liver failure.
Household Products

• **Cleaning products**: like bleach, window cleaners, and bathroom cleansers are often kept in low places your pets might get into. The severity of signs, depends on the amount ingested and any underlying health problems they might have.

• **Coins**: Zinc toxicity can happen when dogs and cats eat metal or coins. Ingestion of even a single zinc penny minted after 1982 can be fatal. Zinc can cause anemia, as well as liver, kidney or heart failure. Steel houseware such as nuts and bolts and topical zinc oxide ointments are other potential sources.

• **Fertilizer**: may not smell like food to us, but they often contain yummy ingredients, like bone meal, to a dog. Most fertilizer ingestions cause mild GI upset and are not a huge concern, but some fertilizers contain herbicides or, rarely, insecticides. Some pets may ingest such a large amount to cause bloat or if the product is moldy, there may be tremors or seizures.
Household Items

- **Glow Jewelry**: is often given out or sold at many events these days, and are often attractive to cats. They contain dibutyl phthalate, a nearly colorless oily liquid that causes a profuse salivation when a cat bites into the glow-in-the-dark jewelry. About 50% of cats develop neurologic signs but they usually have complete recovery with or without treatment. Supportive veterinary treatment is always the best option.

- **Insecticides**: that might be keeping the insect population down may seriously bug your pet. Even if the bait used in most ant and roach traps might not be toxic, the traps themselves might be swallowed and cause choking. Snail, slug, and fly poisons may also be dangerous.

- **Mothballs**: especially if they contain naphthalene, may result in vomiting, diarrhea, increased drinking and urination, and possibly seizures if ingested.
Household Products

• **Rodenticides**: use attractants that might also intrigue your canine or feline companion. The anticoagulants or phosphorus side effects meant to quell rat infestation can have devastating consequences for your pets. Anticoagulants are the most common type of rodenticide used in the United States. You can not identify rodenticides by physical appearance. It is advised to call the 1-800 number on the packaging for more information regarding the type of rodenticide and then contact your veterinarian, Veterinary Emergency Clinic, or poison control line. Newer anticoagulants are more toxic and longer lasting than past ones.

• **Rogaine**: Minoxidil® exposure, the main ingredient in rogaine to help hair growth in people, can result in lethargy, hypotension, pulmonary edema, damage to the heart muscle and potential death from cardiac failure in our pets. Initial signs of lethargy generally begin within 12 hours and heart damage occurs 3-4 days following exposure. Treatment is often symptomatic depending on the symptoms and condition of the pet.

• **Tobacco products**: are toxic to both cats and dogs. Ingestion of nicotine in the tobacco plant, cigarettes or patches can lead to vomiting, tremors, collapse and even death.
Cocoa bean shell mulch: Cocoa bean shells in this type of mulch contain potentially toxic quantities of theobromine, a xanthine compound similar in effects to caffeine. It is the same potentially dangerous ingredient that is in chocolate. To us it makes our yard smell great, to our pets it may be a lethal combination.

Detergents: Large exposures to liquid laundry detergent or the new individual detergent pods can cause GI signs and aspiration in dogs and cats.

Fabric softener sheets: Might offer a tempting secondary use for controlling pet hair, but the chemicals in them aren’t healthy for your pet. The cationic detergents present in fabric softener and dryer sheets can cause a variety of problems for animals ranging from minor skin irritation to widespread systemic distress and pulmonary edema. Swallowing these dryer sheets could lead to potential stomach and intestinal blockages.
Household products

- **Rawhides**: dog chews might seem crazy to consider dangerous, but they can host bacteria like Salmonella. Monitor the storage, use, and life of rawhide chews. They can also get stuck on dogs teeth and could be a potential swallowing hazard. Only give them to your dog when you are home.

- **Toys**: Dog toys are specifically designed so that pieces aren’t swallowed or lodged in the throat. Balls and other toys that aren’t made for dogs—and your dog’s size—can be deadly.
**Drugs**

- **Human pharmaceuticals:** like pain relievers might benefit people, but can be potentially deadly for pets. Ibuprofen and Acetaminophen in Tylenol and other drugs may interfere with oxygen flow or do irreparable harm to the liver, especially in cats. Never use them, or any other human medication for animals without veterinary consultation and direction.

- **Veterinary pharmaceuticals:** may be prescribed for your pet, but that doesn’t mean they can’t overdose on them. Oral doses are often flavored and hence attractive. If your dog or cat finds the stash they might eat the whole bottle at once. The use or dose for one size, or species might not be the right amount for your pet so it is not wise to use a medication that is for another pet unless this has been okayed by your veterinarian.

- **Marijuana:** Having a ‘stoned’ pet is not a good thing. More and more veterinarians are seeing cases of marijuana toxicity in pets. While pot ingestion is rarely fatal, even small amounts may be enough to cause clinical signs of neurologic and cardiac abnormalities. Animals may need medical attention for a few days.
Top Human Meds Toxic to Pets!

- Pain relievers (e.g. Advil, Aleve, Motrin, Tylenol)
- Antidepressants (e.g. Zoloft, Cymbalta, Effexor)
- ADD/ADHD medications (e.g. Ritalin, Vyvanse)
- Sleep aids (e.g. Klonopin, Ambien, Lunesta)
- Muscle relaxants (e.g. Lioresal, Flexeril)
- Heart medications (e.g. Cartia, Cardizem)

- Pet Poison Helpline: 800-213-6680
3 Tips for poison prevention!

- Store human medications in a different location than pet medications. Pet Poison Helpline often takes calls from pet owners who accidentally gave their human medications to their pets.
- Watch those weekly pill holders. They’re irresistible to some dogs because they rattle and resemble chew toys. The danger is that a dog could ingest up to a full seven day’s worth of medications, significantly increasing the risk for poisoning.
- Avoid putting medications into plastic storage baggies before traveling or for any storage. These bags aren’t pet-proof (or child-proof) and can easily be chewed into by cats or dogs.
Plants

- There are more than 700 indoor/outdoor plants contain toxic substances that may harm dogs and cats. If these plants are ingested, signs of poisoning can be anything from mild to severe, sometimes even causing death.

- **Aloe Vera**: is great to have on hand for skin-soothing purposes, but it’s not fun if your pet decides to munch on a leaf. Topical use of the gel found inside the leaves is no problem, but there are other portions of the plant that can irritate the digestive system if ingested.

- **Jade**: the rubber plant jade is toxic to pets and can cause vomiting, slow heart rate, and incoordination.

- **Jimson weed**: also known as devil’s trumpet, can cause restlessness, drunken walking and respiratory failure in dogs and cats.

- **Lilies**: - “No lilies for kitties” is an important takeaway tonight. Most people are not aware that ingestion of any part of a Lily plant can be fatal for cats. This is a particular concern because of the popularity of Lilies in bouquets and gardens. Lilies in the “true lily” and daylily families such as Easter, Stargazer, Tiger, Oriental and Asiatic varieties are highly toxic to cats. Lilies of the valley can cause heart rhythm problems and death in cats and dogs. Ingestion of just one petal, leaf or even the pollen from any of these varieties can cause kidney failure in less than 3 days. Equally toxic to all animals is the gloriosa lily due to the toxic agent colchicine.
Plants

- **Blue Green Algae/ Red Tide:** Living in Florida we have to deal with large algae blooms mainly in the late summer and fall. Red tide is a specific bloom that can make animals very sick if they ingest sea foam, contaminated shellfish or dead fish. Seek veterinary help immediately if your animal has had potential contact with this toxin can be life threatening. It is best to not allow your pets anywhere near areas with algae blooms of any type.

- **Sago palms:** are one of a number of toxic plants for dogs and cats. Ingestion can lead to vomiting, diarrhea and seizures, as well as liver failure.

- **Mushrooms:** Some mushrooms are very dangerous for pets, especially if they are eaten. If you know of or suspect your pet has ingested any, get them to a veterinary hospital as quickly as possible for treatment. You may have heard in the popular news recently that the celebrity Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson’s dog died or was euthanized as a result of eating a toxic mushroom.

- Visit the ASPCA, Pet Poison helpline or the Humane Society of the United States websites for a full list of toxic and nontoxic indoor and outdoor plants.
Animals

- **Bufo Toads**: are one of a few venomous animals to be found in Florida. These toads are highly toxic and can grow to nearly a foot long and up to 2 pounds. They are also not afraid of cats or dogs. Many will stand their ground and let the animal bite/lick them, or it can shoot their venom up to several feet. The smaller your pet, the more likely it could die from contact with their poison. The toads distinctive feature are the bony ridges over each eye and a pair of overly large glands on each shoulder which secrete the venom.

- **Snakes**: We have lots of wildlife here in Florida, including many different types of snakes. Many are not venomous but there are some that our pets may encounter that are dangerous.

- **Wasp/Bees/Hornets**: The flying stinging insects can cause a lot of trouble to our furry friends, just like they do with us. Especially if stung multiple times.
Animals

- **Raccoons/Foxes**: While raccoons and foxes are cute they can carry many diseases that are dangerous to our pets including leptospirosis and rabies. It is best not to feed these animals so they don’t lose their fear of humans and our pets.

- **Other Cats/dogs**: Not every stray cat or dog is up to date on their vaccinations and may carry diseases or parasites, not to mention they may not like your pets. If a fight should happen make sure to bring your pet into your veterinary clinic right away to make sure it doesn’t require medical treatment.
Holiday Dangers

- **Christmas tree:** While we may love decorating for the holidays there are many things that we put up that could be potentially dangerous to our pets. The tree itself is a big one, especially for cats who want to climb up and explore. The strands of lights are a potential chewing hazard. Ornaments can look like toys so keep them out of your pets reach. Stagnant tree water or water with preservatives could result in stomach upset if ingested.

- **Ribbon/Tinsel/Fake Grass:** Can cause choking or intestinal obstructions if swallowed, so it is best to avoid their use if you have pets, especially cats.
Holiday Dangers

• **Foods:** During the holidays we may have more and different varieties of foods and treats around and we may be more distracted from making certain our pets don’t get into them. Many of these foods tend to be higher in fat, or have ingredients that are not healthy for our pets. It is best to keep any of our yummy holiday treats out of their reach and instead have special ones available that are safe for them.

• **Loud Noises/Fireworks:** May scare pets and cause them to run off and potentially get lost. Fireworks can also cause serious injuries if detonated near your pet and many formulations can be potentially toxic if ingested. They also may scare them so much as to cause a Thunderstorm or loud noise anxiety to develop.
Thank you!

• To conclude, there are many potential dangers to our pets that we live with every day. The key is to be aware of these hazards and be proactive in protecting our pets. If you are not certain if something is safe, it’s best to call your veterinary hospital and ask or consult one of the websites we talked about today. If you think your pet has been exposed to or ingested a potentially dangerous item, please seek veterinary help immediately.
ANY QUESTIONS?

I COULDN'T CARE LESS