

Pets and Poisons

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Curious pets will chew and lick many things in your home that could poison them. Dogs, cats and other pets may be at risk for poisoning, especially if left alone for hours at a time. You can help keep your pet safe by storing and using chemicals correctly. Be aware of the following poisons in and around your home. Keep these items in tightly closed containers locked away from your pets.

Alcohol

Their small size makes most pets unable to handle much beer, wine or liquor. Do not give these beverages to pets or allow them to lick up spilled drinks!

Automotive Products

Many of these products are extremely poisonous. Antifreeze, or coolant, has a sweet taste so pets may eagerly lick it off the garage floor or driveway. As little as a teaspoonfull can damage kidneys or even kill a small pet. Check your radiator hoses and clamps regularly for leaks. Make sure you clean up spills or leaks right away.

Chocolate

This treat for humans is a poison for pets! Unsweetened baking chocolate is more deadly than milk chocolate--- only an ounce of it is required to seriously injure a small dog. Never feed foods made with chocolate to pets. Plants Many common indoor and outdoor plants can harm your pet. Examples include philodendron, daffodil, azalea, Easter lily, poinsettia and diffenbachia. Cats especially seem to be drawn to nibble on houseplants. Know the names of your plants and keep poisonous plants out of your pet's living areas.

Pesticides

Products used to kill bugs and mice, or rats, can be very dangerous. Carefully read and follow the package label instructions whenever using a pesticide. Put "bait" where your pet can't get to it. Most baits are made with sugars or other foods so they may attract your pet, as well as pests, to eat them. Keep track of baits and put them in the trash when they're no longer needed.

Medicines and Vitamins

Medicines and vitamins meant for people may not be safe for animals, so check with the veterinarian before dosing your pet with any prescription or over-the-counter products. Never give medicine meant for one animal to another, either. Store medicines out of reach and don't discard them in a trash can to which your pet has access.

Most items that are poisonous to humans can also harm pets. But there is such a wide difference in reactions to chemicals among different animal species that it's not safe to assume that something harmless to humans will not cause problems for your pets. Be prepared should your pet be exposed to a poison. Keep the telephone number of the VPC, your veterinarian, and a local veterinary emergency center posted near your phone. If you suspect that your pet has been poisoned, call for help immediately.

VIRGINIA POISON CENTER at MCV HOSPITALS
Emergency 804-828-4780 business or 804-828-9123