

## PET POISON PREVENTION TIPS

- Be aware of the plants you have in your home and yard. The ingestion of azalea, oleander, castor bean, sago palm, Easter lily (in cats only), or yew plant material by an animal can be fatal.
- Never allow your pets to have access to the areas in which cleaning agents are being used or stored. Cleaning agents have a variety of properties; some may only cause mild stomach upset, but others can cause severe burns of the tongue, mouth, and stomach.
- Store all cleaners, pesticides, and medications in a secure area.
- Pest control products such as rat, snail and slug baits, or ant and roach traps, contain ingredients that can attract your pet. When using such products, be sure to place them in an area that is inaccessible to your companion animals. Mouse and rat bait may not kill the rodents for several days. Keep in mind that, if the rodent travels to an area that your pet can get to, and your pet ingests the dead rodent, they may also suffer the effects of the bait (vitamin K deficiency leading to death).
- Never give your companion animals medication unless you are directed to do so by a veterinarian. Many medications that are safe for humans can be deadly for animals. For example, one extra strength (500mg) acetaminophen tablet could be deadly to a cat.
- Keep all prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs out of your pets' reach, preferably in closed cabinets. Pain killers, cold medicines, anti-cancer drugs, antidepressants, vitamins, and diet pills are all examples of human medications that can be lethal to animals, even in small doses.
- Food items that potentially could be dangerous to pets include onions, onion powder, chocolate (bakers, semi sweet, milk, dark), alcoholic beverages, raisins, grapes, yeast dough, coffee (grounds, beans, chocolate covered espresso beans), tea (caffeine), salt, macadamia nuts, hops (used in home beer brewing), tomato leaves and stems (green parts), rhubarb leaves, avocados (toxic to birds, mice, rabbits, horses, cattle, and dairy goats), cigarettes, cigars, snuff, chewing tobacco, moldy or spoiled foods.
- Many common household items can be dangerous to animals. Mothballs, potpourri oils, pennies, homemade play dough, fabric softener sheets, dishwashing detergent and batteries.
- Automotive products such as gasoline, oil, and anti-freeze should be stored in areas that are inaccessible to your pets. As little as one teaspoon of antifreeze can be deadly to a cat; less than one tablespoon can be lethal to a 20-pound dog.

- Before buying a flea product, consult your veterinarian, especially when treating sick, debilitated or pregnant pets.
- Read all of the information on the label before using a product on your pet or in your home. Always follow directions.
- If a product is for use only on dogs, it should never be used on cats; if a product is for use only on cats, it should never be used on dogs. Never use permethrin spot on products (which are labeled for dogs only) on your cat.
- Make sure your companion animals do not enter areas in which insecticidal foggers or house sprays have been applied for the period of time indicated on the label.
- If you are uncertain about the proper usage of any product, contact the manufacturer and/or your veterinarian for instructions.