Poison Safety for Pet Owners

Your pet depends on you for food, shelter, love, and a safe environment. **Poisons**...substances which could harm your pet if swallowed, touched, or inhaled...may be lurking in your home or yard. Some foods and medicines that are safe for people may not be safe for animals. Here are just a few examples of things that could make your pet sick:

**FOOD**
- Chocolate
- Raisins
- Alcohol
- Salt
- Onions
- Caffeine

**IN THE YARD**
- Snail & slug baits
- Fertilizers
- Insecticides
- Bone and blood meal
- Many plants, including: Lilly of the valley, foxglove, oleander, & several types of bulbs.

**IN THE HOME**
- Mothballs
- Batteries
- Cleaning products
- Lamp oil
- Medicines (both prescription and over-the-counter)

**IN THE GARAGE**
- Paint solvents
- Gasoline
- Ice melt
- Antifreeze (Note: Animals are particularly attracted to antifreeze because it smells and tastes sweet)

It is much easier, less stressful, and less expensive to take steps to prevent...rather than treat...a poisoning. Follow these safety tips:

- Keep trash bins tightly covered or concealed.
- Keep all medicines, household products, and other chemicals locked up or stored out of the sight and reach of pets and children.
- Keep purses and backpacks, which often contain substances harmful to pets such as chocolate candy or medications, out of your pet’s reach.
- If you drop a pill, stop everything until you find it.
- In winter, wipe your pet’s feet and belly after being outdoors in places where people have used ice melt chemicals.
- Avoid mistakes! When giving medicine or using flea control products, check the label and follow instructions carefully. Never give any medication or supplement to your pet without your Veterinarian’s permission.

What should you do if you think your pet may be poisoned?

First—stay calm. Then seek help right away, even if there are no symptoms. The experts at the Blue Ridge Poison Center (1-800-222-1222) are available 24 hours a day, every single day, to offer free advice about responding to a potential pet poisoning. If possible, bring the product or plant with you to the phone, to help us identify exactly what may have poisoned your pet. We can help you decide if you should take your pet to the Veterinarian, or if you should contact one of the fee-based animal poison control centers.

For more information about pet poison safety, visit the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center website: [www.aspca.org/pet-care/poison-control/](http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/poison-control/)