

Garden Talk

Poison Free Pets

Ten Tips for a Pet Safe Household

Tip 1: Be aware of the plants you have in your house and in your pets yard. The ingestion of azalea, oleander, mistletoe, sago palm, Easter lily, or yew plants by an animal could be fatal.

Tip 2: When cleaning the house never allow your pet access to the area where cleaning agents are used or stored. Cleaning agents have a variety of properties. Some may only cause a mild stomach upset while others can cause severe burns of the tongue, mouth, and stomach.

Tip 3: When using rat, mouse, ant, roach or snail and slug baits place the products in areas that are inaccessible to animals. Most baits contain sweet smelling inert ingredients such as jelly, peanut butter and sugars which can be very attractive to pet.

Tip 4: Never give your animal medication unless under the direction of a veterinarian. Many medications that are used safely in humans can be deadly when used inappropriately. One extra strength acetaminophen tablet (500mg) can kill a seven-pound cat.

Tip 5: Keep all prescription 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 common examples of human medication potentially lethal even in small dosages. One regular strength ibuprofen (200mg) can cause stomach ulcers in a ten-pound dog.



Tip 6: Never leave chocolates unattended. Approximately 1/2 ounce or less of baking chocolate per pound body weight can cause problems. Even small amounts can cause pancreatic problems.

Tip 7: Many common household items have been shown to be lethal in certain species. Miscellaneous items that are highly toxic even in low quantities include pennies, mothballs, potpourri oils, fabric softener sheets, automatic dish detergents, batteries, homemade play dough, winter heat source agents like hand or foot warmers, cigarettes, coffee grounds, and alcoholic drinks.

Tip 8: All automotive products such as oil, gasoline, and antifreeze should be stored in areas away from pet access. As little as one teaspoon of antifreeze can be deadly in a seven-pound cat and just one tablespoon can be lethal to a 20-pound dog.

Tip 9: Before buying or using flea products on your pet contact a veterinarian to discuss what type of flea products are recommended. Read all information before using any product on animals. When a product is labeled "for use in dogs only" this means the product should never be applied to cats. Also, when using a fogger or house spray make sure to remove all pets from the area for the time period specified on the container.

Tip 10: When treating your lawn or garden with fertilizer, herbicides or insecticides always keep pets away from the area until dry. Store such products in an area that will ensure no possible pet exposure.

National Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 4ANI-HELP or (888) 426-4435.