

Household Toxins

As a pet owner, you want to keep your new family member safe and healthy. Listed below are some of the most common toxins we see pets get into. Keep these items away from areas where your pet has access. If your pet does experience potential toxin exposure, call us right away. You can also reach the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center 24/7 at (888) 426-4435.

Over-the-counter medications

One of the most common accidental ingestions in pets is over-the-counter medications since these are often readily accessible in most households. Sometimes pets are accidentally poisoned by well-meaning owners who give human medications to animals to relieve symptoms of illness or injury. Please do not ever give your pet any medication without first consulting with your veterinarian.

Human prescription medications and pets

ADHD medications, antidepressants, and heart medications are commonly ingested by pets, and can cause dangerous effects. Keep all medications safely stored inside a medicine cabinet or drawer where your pet can't reach them and ask your visitors to do the same.

Toxic Foods

Many foods that are safe for people can be deadly to pets, including:

- Chocolate
- Xylitol (often found in sugar-free products)
- Macadamia nuts
- Grapes and raisins
- Onions
- Garlic
- Alcohol
- Caffeinated drinks
- Raw yeast dough
- Raw or under-cooked meat

Never leave food where your pet can reach it and keep pets out of the kitchen when children are eating to prevent them from stealing a snack.

Prescription Veterinary Products

Prescription animal medications often are flavored to increase palatability, so pets may mistake them for treats and eat more than prescribed. Inquisitive pets may even eat pills that aren't flavored, so keep all medications out of your pet's reach. Remember, animals can chew through plastic bottles, so child-proof may not mean pet-proof.

Other household items

Products such as paint, glue, and cleaning chemicals often are left out on the assumption that pets won't eat these bad-tasting substances. But sometimes pets lap up liquids because they feel good or have an interesting texture. Household products can contain dangerous chemicals and some household glues expand in the stomach, causing a life-threatening blockage.

Rodenticides

Products designed to kill rodents also kill pets. They are especially dangerous because they also taste good, so it attracts animals not meant to be poisoned. Consider alternatives to rodent control, and keep your pets contained in your yard, so they can't potentially get into rodenticides put out by your neighbors.

Insecticides and pets

Insect baits, bug sprays, and foggers can be poisonous to your pet. Read labels to ensure proper use of these products and prevent pets from exposure during and after use. Store all insecticides on high shelves out of a pet's reach.

Toxic plants

Plants found in flower beds, vegetable gardens, and indoor planters and arrangements can be toxic to pets. Cats, who particularly like to munch on greenery, are sensitive to many plant types, but dogs also can be at risk. A complete list of toxic and nontoxic plants can be found on [ASPCA's website](#). Please research any plants before bringing them into your home or planting them in your garden. If your pet does ingest a potentially toxic plant, immediately call us or the 24/7 ASPCA Animal Poison Control Hotline. If possible, retain a sample of the plant for identification.

Garden products and pets

Many products used on lawns, gardens, and flower beds can cause toxicity in pets. Prevent your pet from ingesting grass or soil in treated areas.