



Toxins & Safety Tips for your Pets



The following can be **EXTREMELY TOXIC**
or otherwise **DANGEROUS** to your pet.



Smoke inhalation (even while outdoors) from marijuana, tobacco (cigarettes, cigars, pipes), vaping, and other types of exposure to smoke can be fatal to your pet, whether it be soon after exposure or over a longer period of time.

Chemical inhalation or contact with bleach, disinfectants, or insecticides can cause permanent lung damage or neurological problems and even death.

Antifreeze / Coolant: Just a lick of this chemical can kill your pet.

Rodent or other poison such as Warforen: Eating a rodent, bird, or other animal which has been poisoned with rodent or insect poison can cause death to your pet.

Medicines not specifically prescribed for your pet by a veterinarian should never be given to your pet. Certain medicines such as Tylenol (Acetaminophen), Aspirin, Ibuprofen, and recreational or other drugs such as Cannabis, CBD (especially if it contains THC), can easily cause kidney or other organ failure and death.

Baby Wipes or other human cleaning wipes can be toxic to pets.

Fabric Softener/Dryer Sheets help to disperse static cling by coating fabrics with chemicals. Unfortunately, these chemicals can poison your pet if they chew on or ingest a sheet, even a used one.

Batteries contain chemicals which pose serious health risks to pets if ingested. Even if your pet doesn't swallow the battery, it can still puncture the battery casing allowing toxic fluid or chemicals to leak out and cause burns and/or poisoning.

Small toys or toys which have been chewed, broken, torn or have strings of material can become lodged in your pet's teeth, throat, or intestines. Toys such as tennis balls or small objects which can be swallowed by your pet and become lodged in your pet's throat could rapidly cause your pet to suffocate. It is okay for your pet to play with a ball only under your close supervision, but remove the ball or other potentially dangerous toys at all other times. It is always best that your pet does not have access to any toys or other objects which may potentially be dangerous while it is left alone or during times it is not being closely watched by you.

Many common household (indoor) & outdoor plants can be extremely toxic to your pet and can result in death.

Coffee, Soda, & Chocolate contain substances called methylxanthines (theoromine and caffeine). Pets cannot metabolize these substances which can ultimately lead to potential life-threatening conditions. While all chocolate can be fatal for pets, dark chocolate and baking chocolate are the most dangerous of all chocolates.

Products with Xylitol. Xylitol is used as a sweetener in many products, including gum, candy, baked goods and toothpaste. It can cause insulin release which can lead to liver failure.

Salt & other seasonings can be harmful to pets' digestive systems and should be avoided, just as certain other human foods which contain a lot of fat for salt. No tidbits or treats of potato chips, pretzels, crackers, popcorn, or most other human foods should ever be given to your pet in any quantity. Plain boiled chicken and white rice is fine to feed your pet with its regular pet food, and these also make a delicious and nutritious treat. Adding some plain, unseasoned vegetables such as carrots and green beans is also fine. Those foods alone, however, do not provide the complete nutrition required by pets.

Bouillon: Many people use bouillon cubes when making stocks, gravy, and other items. Bouillon contains a very high amount of sodium and ingestion of these cubes or foods made with bouillon may lead to high sodium levels in your pet which can be life threatening.

Onions, Garlic & Chives which are commonly used in casseroles, stuffing, mashed potatoes and other food preparations can cause gastrointestinal irritation and could lead to red blood cell damage and anemia. Although cats are more susceptible, dogs are also at risk if a large enough amount is consumed (which can depend on the size and weight of the pet).

Cow's Milk and Dairy Products should never be given to your pet. Pets do not possess significant amounts of lactase (the enzyme which breaks down lactose in milk) and even a small amount of cow's milk or other dairy products can cause diarrhea and significant digestive upset.

Bones of any kind can be very dangerous to your pet. Turkey, chicken, beef, and pork bones tend to splinter which can be caught in your pet's teeth, throat, or if fully ingested, can lodge and perforate your pet's intestines. Pets can also break their teeth while trying to chew on hard bones.

Rawhide Treats, even if labeled for dogs or other pets, can be extremely dangerous. Pets often chew off and swallow chunks of rawhide treats which are not digestible and can cause an intestinal blockage or become lodged in their throat. Instead of a bone or rawhide treat, give your pet a treat which is easily chewable and digestible.

Raw or undercooked meat & eggs: Uncooked or undercooked beef, poultry and eggs can contain bacteria such as Salmonella and E. coli which can be harmful to pets and humans. Raw eggs contain an enzyme called avidin that decreases the absorption of biotin (a B vitamin), which can lead to skin and coat problems. Do not compare what animals eat in the wild, as domestic pets are quite different and require a different diet and rely on humans for their proper dietary needs.

Candies, & other foods containing "Xylitol" (an artificial sweetener used in many foods) can easily lead to acute liver failure.

Baked Goods such as pies can lead to severe Pancreatitis which is an extremely dangerous condition and can be life threatening.

Grapes, Raisins & Berries can cause kidney failure. Just a few ingested by your pet can potentially be fatal.

Walnuts, Pecans, Pistachios, Macadamia and other Nuts are extremely dangerous to pets. Ingestion of just a few Macadamia nuts can cause weakness, tremors, vomiting, depression and hyperthermia (overheating). Other nuts can also pose dangers due to their high fat content which can lead to pancreatitis. The shells from nuts can cause choking or serious injury to a pet's esophagus and digestive tract because the shells are indigestible and can have sharp edges when chewed.

Walnuts, Pecans & Avocado Seeds are extremely dangerous to pets. Just a few nuts, berries, or seeds can lead to Pancreatitis and other potentially fatal health conditions. Avocado seeds contain persin, a fungicidal toxin that can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and potentially more serious health problems, including heart damage, especially in dogs. Additionally, dogs usually like the taste of avocado seeds and tend to chew on them which, because of the large size of the seed, can also present a significant risk of choking and/or intestinal blockage.

Corn Cobs are very dangerous for dogs. The flavor entices dogs to chew on them which can result in choking and/or intestinal blockages.

Citrus Fruit, Leaves, Stems, Peels, and Seeds contain varying amounts of citric acid and essential oils that can cause irritation resulting in gastrointestinal upset (diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain) and possibly lead to central nervous system depression if ingested in significant amounts.

Coconut, Coconut Oil & Coconut-based products contain oils which may cause stomach upset, loose stools or diarrhea.

Yeast Dough can ferment in a pet's stomach, producing toxic alcohol and carbon dioxide gas in the pet's digestive tract. This is extremely painful and can result in the stomach bloating and twisting which is a life threatening emergency.

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center also offers a 24/7 help line: 1-888-426-4435