



Garden Talk

Poison Free Pets

Ten Tips for a Poison-Safe Household

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

Tip 2: When cleaning your 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 could 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 your animals. Most baits contain sweet smelling inert ingredients, such as jelly, peanut butter, and sugars, which can be very attractive to your pet.

Tip 4: Never give your animal any medications unless under the direction of your 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 that could be potentially lethal even in small dosages. One regular strength ibuprofen (200mg) could cause stomach ulcers in a ten-pound dog.

Tip 6: Never leave chocolates unattended. Approximately one-half 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 less than one tablespoon could be lethal to a 20-pound dog.

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



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Tip 10: When treating your lawn or garden with fertilizers, herbicides, or insecticides, always keep your animals away from the area until the area dries. Always store such products in an area that will ensure no possible pet exposure.