

live well, work well

Health and wellness tips for your work, home and life—brought to you by the insurance and healthcare specialists at M3.

Pet Safety: Poisons

Protect your buddies from household hazards

If you are a typical pet owner, your dog and/or cat is a part of your family. However, just as you would with a baby, you must be vigilant in protecting them from poisonous items that can be found around the house.

Poisonous Plants

Those sweet-smelling flowers or cascading green plants may brighten up your home, but unfortunately dogs and cats are attracted to them too. The most popular flora also dangerous to your pet are:

- Lilies
- Tulips/Narcissus bulbs
- Azaleas/Rhododendrons
- Oleander
- Amaryllis
- Chrysanthemums
- Daisies
- Baby's breath
- Pothos – Of the Araceae family; is an extremely popular houseplant

All of the above can produce vomiting, diarrhea, loss of coordination, and in some cases even coma or death. This list is not exhaustive; for a more comprehensive record, visit the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) at www.aspca.org.

People Food

As much as your pet begs for a taste of what's on your plate, it is

generally not wise to feed your animal food or drinks meant for humans. That which is especially harmful to pets includes:

- Grapes
- Raisins
- Avocado
- Chocolate
- Onions, garlic and chives
- Coffee
- Alcoholic beverages
- Undercooked meat
- Raw bones (they can splinter)
- Products sweetened with xylitol (like sugar-free gum)

Medications

Everyone has dropped a pill on the floor from time to time. However, if you have pets, you need to pick it up immediately; if you cannot find it, get out the vacuum. Never leave opened medication out on the counter. Also, if you are dispensing medication to your animal, make sure to read the instructions carefully. The ASPCA has also received calls regarding poisonings by well-meaning pet owners.

If Your Pet is Poisoned...

Call the Animal Poison Control Center at **(888) 426-4435**. Be ready with a description of your animal, symptoms, information about the poisoning and, if applicable, have the product's label or container handy. The ASPCA also recommends having a pet first aid kit, containing hydrogen peroxide (3%, to induce vomiting), a bulb syringe or turkey baster (to administer the hydrogen peroxide), saline eye solution, artificial tear gel, forceps, a muzzle (to prevent getting bitten if your animal is in shock), a mild dishwashing liquid (to bathe him/her after skin contamination), and a can of your pet's favorite food. You can also purchase such kits in pet stores or online.

Source: ASPCA



Did you know...?

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center handles more than 140,000 cases of animal poisonings every year; 60,000 of these calls usually involve human medications or the incorrect administration of veterinary medicines by pet owners.