



Maryland Poison Center
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Poison Prevention Press

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Top 10 Pet Poisons of 2009

(reported to the ASPCA Animal Poison Center)

1. Human Medicines
2. Insecticides
3. People Food
4. Plants
5. Veterinary Medicines
6. Rodenticides
7. Household Cleaners
8. Heavy Metals
9. Garden Products
10. Chemical Hazards

For more information, go to www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control. Here you can find lists of plants, medicines and household products that can be dangerous for pets.

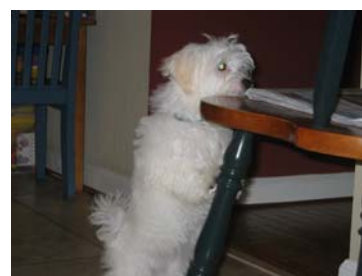
Did you know that...

In 2009, the Maryland Poison Center answered 2,180 calls regarding animal poisonings.

In 2009, the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center handled >140,000 cases of pets exposed to toxic substances.

Don't Forget the Pets: Tips for Keeping Your Pets Poison-Safe

When we think about making our homes poison safe, we think right away of children. Some of us may think about an aging parent. We should also be thinking about our pets. Pets can be poisoned by many of the same things that poison people. It is not shocking that a pet can be easily poisoned by **antifreeze**. We are used to hearing that antifreeze can have a sweet taste, so dogs and cats will continue to lap up a puddle they find on the driveway or in the garage. We are very aware of the dangers of **chocolate** in dogs...the darker the chocolate, the more dangerous. There are additional food and household items found in many of our homes that can be just as dangerous. Some may surprise you.



We may treat our furry friends occasionally to people food or they may help themselves to something on the table or that has fallen to the floor. The following foods should be avoided. **Avocados** can cause vomiting and diarrhea in dogs while birds and rodents can develop congestion, difficulty breathing and fluid around the heart. Dogs can develop weakness, depression, vomiting and tremors after eating **macadamia nuts**. **Grapes and raisins** can cause kidney failure in dogs. **Xylitol**, a sweetener in gum, candy, baked goods and toothpaste, can cause insulin release in most species, possibly leading to liver failure. In addition to being found in **chocolate**, methylxanthine is found in **coffee** and **caffeine**. This substance can cause vomiting/diarrhea, increased thirst and urination, hyperactivity, effects on the heart, tremors, seizures and death.

When using household cleaners, be sure to read the product label for specific instructions regarding pets. **Bleach, detergents and disinfectants** can cause serious stomach problems and irritate the respiratory tract. **Rat and mouse poisons** should be placed in an area that is not reachable by the family pet. Although it takes more than a nibble of the poison in most cases, pets can develop bleeding, seizures or kidney damage, depending on the poison. Household **plants** can pose a poison problem for pets. A list of dangerous plants can be found on the ASPCA website under "Pet Care". Care should be used when using **flea and tick products** on your pet. Consult your veterinarian to be sure you are using the proper product. These products are species specific, so make sure you are using the correct product for your cat or dog.

Human medicine can be dangerous for pets as well. Anti-inflammatory medicines like **ibuprofen** or **naproxen** can cause stomach problems and kidney damage. **Acetaminophen**, the active ingredient in Tylenol®, can cause damage to red blood cells in cats and liver damage in dogs. Some **antidepressants** can cause vomiting and tiredness followed by increase in body temperature, heart rate and blood pressure as well as tremors and seizures.

The Maryland Poison Center can be consulted when pets get into things they shouldn't. If they do not have enough information to help with your pet, they will refer you to the ASPCA Animal Poison Center, located in Illinois. More information about pet poisoning can be found at www.aspc.org/pet-care. The animal poison control experts can be consulted at 1-888-426-4435 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The call is toll-free, but a \$65 consultation fee may be applied to your credit card.