

## **Leading Causes of Accidental Dog and Cat Injury and Death, In and Around the Home**

I lied. There are over 200 items listed below, but I didn't want you to feel overwhelmed. The following household items have the potential to cause serious illness, or even death, depending on the amount eaten by your cat or dog. Keep these items in a safe location, out of your pet's reach.

### **HARMFUL FOODS**

Alcoholic beverages

Avocados

Caffeine found in coffee, tea, energy drinks

Chocolate

Fatty foods

Garlic

Grapes

Macadamia nuts

Moldy/spoiled foods

Onions & onion powder

Raisins

Raw yeast dough

Salt

Tea leaves

Xylitol (artificial sweetener found in gum and candy)

## **PLANTS**

Aloe

Amaryllis

Andromeda Japonica

Asian Lily

Asparagus fern

Australian Nut

Autumn Crocus

Azalea/Rhododendron

Belladonna

Bird of Paradise

Bittersweet (American and European)

Black Locust

Branching ivy

Buckeye

Buddhist Pine

Caladium

Calla lily

Castor Bean

Ceriman

Clematis

Cordatum

Corn plant Cycads

Cyclamen

Daffodil

Daylily

Devil's Ivy

Dieffenbachia

Dumbcane

Easter lily

Elephant ears

Emerald fern

English Ivy

Eucalyptus

Ferns

Fiddle-leaf philodendron

Florida Beauty

Foxglove

Glacier Ivy

Gladiolas

Gold dust dracaena

Golden Pothos

Heavenly bamboo

Honeysuckle

Hurricane Plant

Hyacinth

Hydrangea

Iris

Jerusalem Cherry

Jimson Weed

Kalanchoe

Lantana

Lilies (all Liliaceae species)

Lily of the Valley

Lupine

Marble Queen

Morning Glory

Mother-in-Law

Mountain Laurel

Narcissus

Needlepoint Ivy

Nephtysis

Nightshade

Oleander

Panda

Peace Lily

Peach, plum, cherry, apricot (seeds, leaves, stems)

Philodendron

Poison Hemlock

Precatory Bean (rosary pea)

Privet

Red Emerald

Rhododendron

Ribbon plant

Sago Palm

Satin Pothos

Schefflera

Striped Dracaena

Sweetheart Ivy

Tulip/Narcissus bulbs

Water Hemlock

Wisteria

Yew

Yucca

[Click for a searchable database of Common Poisonous Plants](#)

## **HOUSEHOLD STUFF**

Acetaminophen

Anti-cancer drugs

Antidepressants

Antifreeze/Coolant

Balls (especially small ones or that have a smooth outer coating)

Batteries

Bleach

Bread twist ties

Buttons

Cocoa bean shell mulch fertilizer

Coins

Cold and flu medications

Compost (if it's moldy)

Cotton swabs

De-icing salts

Detergents

Diet pills

Disinfectants

Drain cleaners

Fabric softener

Flea and tick products not vet-approved for dogs or cats

Fly bait

Gasoline

Glass

Hairpins

Home insect products

Jewelry

Lead

Lighter fluid

Lime/scale remover

Liquid potpourri

Mothballs

Motor oil

Nicotine

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications (ibuprofen, aspirin, etc.)

Nylons

Oven cleaner sprays

Paper clips

Pesticides

Plastic wrap

Prescription & over-the-counter meds

Rat and mouse bait

Ribbons

Rubber-bands

Sharp objects (knives, razors, scissors, nails, needles, etc.)

Slug and snail bait

Socks (choking hazard)

Solvents (paint thinners, etc.)

String/yarn/dental floss

Tobacco products



Towels

Vitamins

Wax

[For a more complete list of Common Poisons & Hazards click here.](#)

## **SPECIFIC TO HOLIDAYS**

### **Christmas**

Tinsel, small toys, chocolate, xylitol, small Christmas ornaments, holiday plants, ribbons, decoration hooks, styrofoam

### **New Years's**

Confetti, balloons, alcohol, loud noises (see 4th July)

### **Valentine's Day**

Flowers: See PLANTS above

### **Easter**

Fake grass, small toys, chocolate, xylitol

### **4th of July**

Fireworks: Not only can they cause injury, but they can scare your dog and cause them to run off.

### **Halloween**

chocolate, xylitol, candles, mean kids pulling cruel pranks

### **Thanksgiving**

Bones, artificial sweeteners and some nuts in baked goods, hot containers

Along with these lists, I keep this number:

**Poison Control Hotline**

**888-426-4435, Toll-Free Number.**

**It is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.**

There is a consult fee of \$60, payable by credit card. This includes follow-up consultation (they provide a special number) with you or your vet throughout the case.

**You will need to have the following information ready:**

- Species, breed, age, sex, weight and number of animals involved
- Symptoms
- Substance (if known), the amount and the time since ingestion or exposure
- Product packaging for reference

If your animal is having seizures, losing consciousness, is unconscious or is having trouble breathing, call ahead and take him or her immediately to your vet or to an emergency vet clinic. Take any product packaging with you.

Keep emergency numbers at the ready: your vet, emergency vet and the poison control hotline. Keep directions to your vet and emergency vet in an accessible place, and remember to leave information for pet sitters.

Here are more worthwhile tips and information from Animal Poison Control.

**Animal Poison Control First Aid Kit Recommendations**

- Fresh bottle of hydrogen peroxide, 3% (to induce vomiting)
- Turkey baster, bulb syringe or large medicine syringe (to give peroxide)
- Saline eye solution
- Artificial tear gel
- Mild grease-cutting dish-washing liquid (bathing after skin contamination)

- Forceps (stinger removal)
- Muzzle (to protect against fear or excitement-induced biting)
- Can of favorite wet food
- Pet carrier

**Web Resources from Animal Poison Control**

1. [What To Do If Your Pet Is Poisoned](#)
2. [Poison Control FAQ](#)
3. [ASPCA Poisonous Household Products](#)
4. [People Foods To Avoid Feeding Your Pets](#)
5. [Top Pet Poisons](#)
6. [Toxic & Non-Toxic Plants \(searchable database\)](#)