



CITY OF BEAUMONT

ANIMAL CARE SERVICES

TOP 10 MOST COMMON PET POISONS

WITH VARIOUS DANGERS LURKING IN CORNERS AND CABINETS, THE HOME CAN BE A MINEFIELD OF POISONS FOR OUR PETS. DON'T LEAVE IT UP TO FIDO OR FLUFFY TO KEEP THEMSELVES SAFE. BELOW IS A LIST OF THE "TOP 10" PET POISONS THAT AFFECTED OUR FURRY FRIENDS IN 2008.

HUMAN MEDICATIONS

FOR SEVERAL YEARS, HUMAN MEDICATIONS HAVE BEEN NUMBER ONE ON THE ASPCA'S LIST OF COMMON HAZARDS TO YOUR PETS. PETS OFTEN SNATCH PILL VIALS FROM COUNTERS AND NIGHTSTANDS OR GOBBLE UP MEDICATIONS ACCIDENTALLY DROPPED ON THE FLOOR, SO IT'S ESSENTIAL TO KEEP MEDS TUCKED AWAY IN HARD-TO-REACH CABINETS.

INSECTICIDES

IN OUR EFFORT TO RID HOMES OF UNWELCOME PESTS, WE OFTEN UNWITTINGLY PUT OUR PETS AT RISK. ONE OF THE MOST COMMON INCIDENTS OF PET POISONING S INVOLVED THE MISUSE OF FLEA AND TICK PRODUCTS, SUCH AS APPLYING THE WRONG TOPICAL TREATMENT TO THE WRONG SPECIES. THUS, IT'S ALWAYS IMPORTANT TO TALK TO YOUR PET'S VETERINARIAN BEFORE BEGINNING ANY FLEA AND TICK CONTROL PROGRAM.

PEOPLE FOOD

PEOPLE FOOD LIKE GRAPES, RAISINS, AVOCADO AND CERTAIN CITRUS FRUIT CAN SERIOUSLY HARM PETS. CHOCOLATE IS ONE OF THE WORST OFFENDERS BECAUSE IT CONTAINS A LARGE AMOUNT OF METHYLXANTHINES, WHICH, IF INGESTED IN SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS, CAN CAUSE VOMITING, DIARRHEA, PANTING, EXCESSIVE THIRST, URINATION, HYPERACTIVITY, AND IN SEVERE CASES, ABNORMAL HEART RHYTHM, TREMORS AND SEIZURES.

RODENTICIDES

MANY BAITS USED TO ATTRACT RODENTS CONTAIN INACTIVE INGREDIENTS THAT ARE ATTRACTIVE TO PETS AS WELL. DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF RODENTICIDE, INGESTIONS CAN LEAD TO POTENTIALLY LIFE THREATENING PROBLEMS FOR PETS, INCLUDING BLEEDING, SEIZURES, AND KIDNEY DAMAGE.

VETERINARY MEDICATIONS

EVEN THOUGH VETERINARY MEDICATIONS ARE INTENDED FOR PETS, THEY'RE OFTEN MISAPPLIED OR IMPROPERLY DISPENSED BY PET OWNERS. COMMONLY MISUSED MEDICATIONS INCLUDE NON-STEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS, HEARTWORM PREVENTATIVES, DE-WORMERS, ANTIBIOTICS, VACCINES AND NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS.

PLANTS

COMMON HOUSEPLANTS SUCH AS AZALEA, RHODODENDRON, SAGO PALM, LILIES, KALANCHOE, AND SCHEFFLERA CAN BE HARMFUL TO PETS. LILLIES ARE ESPECIALLY TOXIC TO CATS, AND CAN CAUSE LIFE THREATENING KIDNEY FAILURE EVEN IN SMALL AMOUNTS.

CHEMICAL HAZARDS

ETHELYNE GLYCOL ANTIFREEZE, PAINT THINNER, DRAIN CLEANERS AND POOL/SPA CHEMICALS FORM A SUBSTANTIAL DANGER TO PETS. SUBSTANCES IN THIS GROUP CAN CAUSE GASTRONOMICAL UPSET, DEPRESSION, RESPIRATORY DIFFICULTIES, AND CHEMICAL BURNS.

HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS

BLEACHES, DETERGENTS AND DISINFECTANTS CAN CAUSE DAMAGE TO PETS IF INHALED. SIDE EFFECTS INCLUDE GASTROINTESTINAL DISTRESS AND IRRITATION TO THE RESPIRATORY TRACT.

HEAVY METALS

LEAD, ZINC, AND MERCURY ARE COMMON METALS INGESTED BY PETS THAT CAN CAUSE SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS. LEAD IS ESPECIALLY PERNICIOUS SINCE IT IS FOUND IN COMMON HOUSEHOLD ITEMS SUCH AS PAINT CHIPS, LINOLEUM, AND EVEN LEAD DUST FROM OLDER SURFACES OF HOMES BEING SCRAPED OR SANDED.

FERTILIZER

OUTDOOR PETS ARE OFTEN ACCIDENTALLY EXPOSED TO HARMFUL FERTILIZERS. IF YOU SUSPECT YOUR PET HAS INGESTED SOMETHING LAWN-SIDE, IT IS WISE TO CONTACT YOUR VETERINARIAN OR THE ANIMAL POISON CONTROL CENTER'S 24-HOUR HOTLINE AT (888) 426-4435.