



Poisoning, How to Avoid

Certain precautions will help keep your pet safe from poisons. Follow these rules to avoid the need for emergency care.

- Keep all medicines in containers and stored in cabinets – dogs will chew them up if left on counters or end tables
- Pick up any dropped pills and clean up any spills promptly
- Don't give any human medicines to your pet without calling us first (even if your friend or the blog online says it's safe!)
- Always read labels of products you are using on your pet and follow the directions
- Never use a product that says "For dogs only" on your cat
- Save the package of anything you put on or give your pet
- Store all cleaning products and chemicals in cabinets away from inquisitive pets
- Check a list of poisonous plants before you bring any plants into the house
- Use mouse/rat poison or snail/slug bait in areas where your pet can't reach
- Save the containers for any poisons you put out
- Keep your pets off lawns that have been treated
- Wash their paws after coming indoors
- Keep your pet away from the candy bowl when it's full of chocolate or it's sugar-free!
- Be careful with food left out on counters
- Know which foods are toxic to pets



Other Considerations

Having the container of poison or insecticide you used is helpful if your pet gets sick. The first question the veterinarian will ask is "What was it?" Then next question will be "How much?" Knowing the answers to these questions can make a difference in how successful your pet's treatment is.

Cats drool excessively when they taste something that is bitter. This doesn't mean it's poisonous (glow sticks are a great example). You may find your cat foaming and won't know the reason.



Give your cat something to eat or drink to remove the bad taste. Afterwards, keep a close eye on your cat to see if any other signs develop. If you know what your cat bit into, call your veterinarian to see if your cat is safe.

Have a phone number for an animal poison control center handy. You can call the **Pet Poison Helpline at 855-764-7661** or **Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435**. Both places will charge you for the call (the Pet Poison Helpline is less expensive) and both have websites that provide information on different poisons.