



**Good Friends
Animal
Hospital**

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Accidental Poisoning

Fortunately, accidental poisonings in pets are not as common as people fear. But there is a real possibility of it occurring, so you should take some preventive steps.

Prescription and over-the-counter drugs are some of the more common threats. Dogs will eat anything. Keep all medications out of their reach at all times. Aspirin can be given to most dogs, but don't give ibuprofen (Advil) or acetaminophen (Tylenol). None of these are safe for cats.

Many common houseplants are toxic. Discourage your pets from chewing on plants and keep them up high. Flower bulbs can be toxic also so take precautions when planting.

Keep household chemicals and cleaning products in inaccessible areas. Don't allow your pet to drink out of a cleaning bucket. Antifreeze can be deadly so clean up any spills promptly.

Many people already know that chocolate can be toxic. Dogs and cats don't metabolize it the way we do and large amounts can overload their systems. Certain types of dark chocolate that are more concentrated are also more toxic. Grapes and raisins can be toxic to dogs. Also avoid macadamia nuts, onions and garlic in both dogs and cats.

Mouse and rat poisons cause bleeding disorders. Your pet can also be poisoned after eating a mouse that was killed with poison. Be extremely careful with these products. Your pet should not have a "bloody nose" for no apparent reason or any other unexplained bleeding or bruising. The type of product used is very important to know if your pet eats any of it, so keep the boxes.

If your pet is exposed to any toxins call the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center (1-888-426-4435). There is a charge for the call but it's probably worth it for your peace of mind. Before you call, know the name of the product if possible and have the container with you. Know the names of your prescription drugs in case your dog chews up the container. For more information on threats to your pets, go to www.asPCA.org.