

# HOW TO PREVENT PET POISONING



March is Pet Poison Prevention Awareness Month, which means that it's time to brush up on prevention tactics! With proper awareness, you can prevent poisoning emergencies before they happen.

## Perilous People Food

Chocolate isn't the only "people food" that's toxic to pets, but we tend to hear about it the most. Avocados, grapes, onions, garlic, sugar-free treats, coffee, tea, and macadamia nuts are all toxic. That's why the kitchen can be quite a dangerous place for your pet. Keep these and all other potentially poisonous foods out of their reach.

Are you having a dinner party? Guests may be tempted to feed Fido some table scraps. Make sure you set the ground rules before you serve the appetizers and main meal so that no accidents occur.

**Note:** It's always best to exercise caution when monitoring your pet's food intake. Just because one item may be less toxic than another, it does not mean your pet should eat it in excess. If you have any questions about the toxicity of certain foods or observe a change in your pet's behaviour after consuming "people food," please contact your veterinarian or local animal clinic immediately.

## No More Playing Doctor

A sick pet can make any human jump into protective mode. When your pet is feeling under the weather, don't reach for the bottles in your medicine cabinet. Doing so can have life-threatening consequences. Keep human medicines out of your pet's reach and only give your pet medications prescribed by their veterinarian. Leave the medical care to the professionals. Snuggling together under a warm blanket? That's all you!

## Act Fast

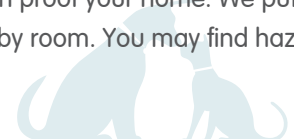
If you know or suspect that your pet has ingested something poisonous, seek professional veterinary care immediately. Given how quickly poisons can work, there won't be time to search the web for a solution. Your first move should be calling your vet. If you get the clinic's voicemail or it's after hours, bring your pet to the nearest emergency care facility. The sooner you seek treatment, the better.

## Essential Oils

Essential oils are becoming super popular these days. Enthusiasts swear by their therapeutic properties, but can pets reap the rewards too? Many essential oils are not safe for pets. Some can cause organ damage as well as skin irritation if applied directly to your pet's fur. Excessive paw and fur licking can lead to dangerous toxicity. Talk to your vet before using essential oils on or around your pets and make sure your pet always has a way to leave a room with a diffuser running.

## Poison Proofing

Ready to put your poison prevention knowledge into practice? Then it's time to learn how to poison proof your home. We put together a handy infographic that'll help you identify the most common household poisons room by room. You may find hazards that you hadn't realized were dangerous!



To learn more visit [petsplusus.com/partner/vet](https://petsplusus.com/partner/vet)

# KEEPING PETS SAFE<sup>+</sup>



## Common Household Poisons

If you believe your pet has ingested a toxic substance, contact your vet clinic immediately or the Pet Poison Helpline® — **1.800.213.6680**

## TOP TOXINS IN THE KITCHEN

- Chocolate
- Xylitol (chewing gum)
- Grapes and raisins
- Caffeine (coffee, tea)
- Onions and garlic
- Macadamia nuts
- Bread/Play Dough
- Alcohol
- Table salt
- Chicken bones
- Batteries
- Moldy foods
- Cleaners
- Fatty scraps

### ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN.

A toxic ingestion can cost between **\$500-\$2,000\***.

### TO GET A QUOTE VISIT

[petsplusus.com](http://petsplusus.com)

OR CALL 1-800-364-8422



Each season brings different hazards in and outside the home. Visit [petsplusus.com](http://petsplusus.com) to read our seasonal articles on how to keep your pet safe throughout the year!



To learn more visit [petsplusus.com/partner/vet](http://petsplusus.com/partner/vet)

## TOP TOXINS IN THE BATHROOM



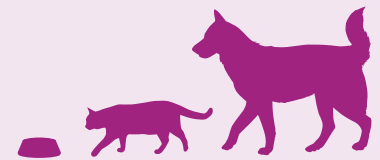
- Prescription medication
- Acetaminophen
- Vitamins and minerals
- Cold and allergy medications
- Antidepressants
- Caffeine pills
- Bleach, ammonia & cleaners
- Sleep aids
- Inhalers
- Cannabis products
- Recreational drugs

## TOP TOXINS FOR CATS

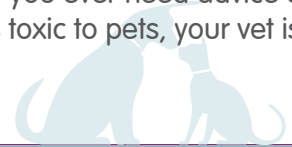
- Topical spot-on insecticides
- Household cleaners
- Antidepressants
- Lilies
- Insoluble oxalate plants (Dieffenbachia, Philodendron)
- NSAIDs (Ibuprofen, Naproxen)
- Cold & flu medication (Tylenol®)
- Cannabis & recreational drugs
- ADD/ADHD medications
- Mouse & rat poisons

## TOP TOXINS FOR DOGS

- Xylitol (Chewing gum)
- Chocolate
- Mouse & rat poisons
- Vitamins & minerals (Vitamin D3, Iron)
- NSAIDs (Ibuprofen, Naproxen)
- Cardiac medication (Calcium channel blockers)
- Cold & allergy medications
- Antidepressants
- Acetaminophen (Tylenol®)
- Caffeine pills
- Cannabis & recreational drugs



A veterinary team is committed to keeping pets safe and their humans well informed. If you ever need advice on poison-proofing your home or want to settle the debate on whether a particular food is toxic to pets, your vet is your best resource. Don't be afraid to call on their expertise whenever you need it!



**COMMUNITY + COVERAGE  
+ MEMBERSHIP = PETS PLUS US**

710 Dorval Drive, Suite 700  
Oakville, ON L6K 3V7

To find out more:

Visit [petsplusus.com/partner/vet](https://petsplusus.com/partner/vet)



\*Source: 2021 PTZ Insurance claims data. (Value of claims in \$ CAD).

© 2022 All rights reserved. Pets Plus Us Pet Insurance policies are underwritten by Northbridge General Insurance Corporation, distributed by PTZ Insurance Services Ltd. & Société d'Assurances Collectives (Sodaco) Inc. in Quebec. Pets Plus Us Pet Insurance is available in all provinces and territories. Pets Plus Us®, Pets Plus Us & Design and related words and logos are trademarks and the property of PTZ Insurance Services Ltd.  
† With information from Pet Poison Helpline®, an Animal Poison Control that provides treatment advice and recommendations relating to exposures to potential dangerous plants, products, medications, and substances, to veterinarians, veterinary staff and pet owners 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please be aware as of February 15, 2022, there is a \$75.00 US per incident consultation fee which includes unlimited follow-up. Pet Poison Helpline is located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Helpline number is 1-800-213-6680. If you have insurance coverage with Pets Plus Us, the call is free. Please refer to your welcome kit for the no-charge member's only phone number.

21539 0722