

Did you know that your home can be a dangerous environment for your dog? Every year thousands of pets are poisoned by products commonly found around the house. Dogs, especially puppies, like to explore their environment with their mouths. They will eat things their owners would never suspect they would try. Occasionally, a well intentioned owner will give a human medication to a dog that is toxic. Animals have different enzymes in their livers for detoxifying products so a drug that is safe for people can be fatal. Never medicate your dog without first consulting your veterinarian.

If you are suspicious that your dog has consumed or come in contact with a toxic product, you may call a Poison Control Center. Please have the product packaging with you when you call or visit your vet. If it is necessary to induce vomiting, give 1 to 3 teaspoons of hydrogen peroxide every 5 minutes. Save the vomitus. So not induce vomiting if a corrosive material has been ingested, such as acid, alkali or kerosene. Give water or milk to dilute the poison. If an animal has a toxic or corrosive material on its fur or skin, wash it with profuse amounts of water and dish soap if needed. Call your vet to alert him/her that you are on your way and don't forget to bring the product container.

Common household products toxic to pets include the following:

#### **Human medication:**

asprin, acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (extremely toxic or fatal to cats), tranquilizers - such as valium, zinc oxide - diaper rash products, 5-FU (Efudex) skin cream deodorants.

#### **Foodstuffs:**

chocolate - especially dark and baker's chocolate, caffeine, onions, alcoholic beverages

#### **Cleaning Products:**

bleach, drain cleaner, detergent, denture cleaner, furniture polish, metal cleaner, moth balls, oven cleaner, paint and varnish remover, pine oil disinfectants - especially toxic to cats, rubbing alcohol, tar shampoos -

motor fuel, brake and transmission fluid

### **Arts and crafts supplies:**

photographic developer, antiquing agents, some paints contain lead, arsenic, copper and cadmium

### **Pest control:**

*Birds* – most avicides are toxic

*Insects* – Be sure to follow directions carefully, especially when applying the following flea products to pets' coats:

1) organophosphates and carbamates-individual sensitivities not uncommon

2) organochlorines – lindane and chlordane (not for use on cats)

3) pyrethrins – high doses may poison cats

ant bait-arsenic and sugar – very attractive to dogs; boric acid, borates

*Mollusks* – snail bait, metaldehyde, very common pet poison. Dogs like to eat the pellets. The gels can stick to animals' feet and be ingested when licked off. It causes seizures.

*Rodents* – Dogs and cats may be exposed by eating rodents killed with rat poison or by eating poisoned pellets.

anticoagulants – warfarin, brodifocoum, diphacinone - an antidote is available.

strychnine, arsenic; bromethalin; cholecalciferol (vitamin D3) – a new and very toxic rat poison with no antidote

### **Herbicides fertilizers:**

2, 4D•MCPA, MCPA, dicamba; paraquat - very toxic; N-P-K – nitrogen, phosphorous, potash fertilizer – mildly toxic.