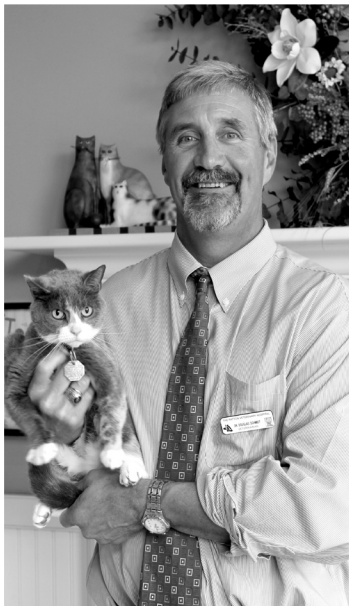


ASK OUR VET, DR. SCHMIDT



*Dear Dr. Schmidt,
I heard that antifreeze can be toxic
to cats and dogs. Is that true?*

*Thank you,
Gracie*

Dear Gracie,

You heard correctly! Antifreeze can be very deadly to both dogs and cats; cats appear to be more sensitive to it than dogs. One teaspoonful can kill a cat, and four teaspoonfuls can kill a 10 lb dog. If you suspect a pet has ingested antifreeze, you need to act very, very quickly. The first three-six hours are crucial for an antidote to be effective. After that, all bets are off. Call your veterinarian or the emergency clinic immediately if you suspect this has happened. It could be a matter of life and death.

If a pet does consume a lethal dose, it can cause irreversible kidney failure. It causes crystals to form in the kidneys and permanently shuts them down. One of the first signs of consumption is dizziness, which unfortunately is short lived and often missed. Then after two-three days the affected pet

becomes very listless and lethargic and begins to lose their appetite. These are signs of kidney failure. By the time these symptoms occur, there really isn't much more we can do. The best thing to do is to prevent it from happening. You can do this by disposing of antifreeze properly, cleaning up spilled antifreeze, or by using an alternate non-toxic antifreeze that is now available. Spread the word to all your friends, too. This is a very preventable problem.

Thanks for your question,
Dr. Doug Schmidt



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