

# ASK OUR VETERINARIANS

## Common household toxicities in dogs and cats

Many people do not realize that common household items and medications, while fine for humans, are actually toxic to pets. It is our goal to help educate pet owners as to what to keep away from your pets to keep them healthy and safe.

Indoor plants can be toxic to pets. Lillies (especially Easter lilies and Tiger lilies) are particularly toxic to cats. Our feline friends need not but eat a little of the plant to cause acute kidney failure and, in some cases, death.

Human medications can also be toxic to pets. One Aleve can kill a dog or cat; Tylenol and other non-steroidal anti-inflammatories can also all be toxic. These medications can result in kidney or liver failure or severe gastrointestinal bleeding. You should NEVER administer human medications to pets without first checking with your veterinarian.

Foods such as chocolate, coffee, grapes or raisins to dogs, avocado, onion, and garlic are all considered toxic and should not be fed to your pets. If you pet consumes any of the above listed items, you should call your veterinarian's office right away.

Chemicals such as bleach or anti-freeze (ethylene glycol) are very toxic. Other toxicities may include rat poison or snail poison. Lead poisoning is also possible if the pet is ingesting lead paint or lead fishing gear.

If you suspect or know that your pet has ingested any of the above listed toxins, you should contact poison control 888-426-4435 or your veterinarian RIGHT AWAY. If caught in time, many toxins can be removed by inducing vomiting or flushed with intravenous fluids. Never make your pet vomit without first consulting your veterinarian or the poison hotline – in some cases, that can actually make things worse.

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