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Be Prepared!

— Student Veterinary Emergency
and Critical Care Society —

What you will learn

- Signs of an immediate veterinary emergency that should be evaluated by a veterinarian
- What you should know about the veterinary ER
- Common toxins to you pets
- Things to make sure your pet doesn't swallow



Signs that your pet may need immediate veterinary care

- Dark/bluish or pale gums
- Difficulty breathing
- >3 seizures in 24 hours
- Non-productive retching
- Acting unresponsive
- Episodes of collapse
- Trauma -hit by car, etc.
- Excessive bleeding



What you need to know about the ER

- Animal ERs work like human emergency rooms
 - Critical animals will be evaluated first, so there can be lengthy wait times
- An ER is going to be more expensive than your regular veterinarian
 - This is because they have to have the staffing and resources available for any type of emergency that can come through the door at any time
- The staff knows that no one wants to be in the ER, so they try to do everything they can to make your visit as least stressful as possible



Do you know the common household toxins?

One of the most common reasons that pets need to visit the ER is due to toxin ingestion. This powerpoint goes over some common toxins.

If your pet ever eats a food or medication and you are unsure if it is a toxic amount, you can call the ASPCA Poison Control at (888) 426-4435. There is a \$75 fee to get the professional recommendation.

Click through this powerpoint to quiz yourself & learn about a few of the most common toxicities seen in throughout Emergency Veterinary Hospitals in the United States. Some may surprise you! [Can you find them in your house?](#)

Cat Toxins

Which of these flowers is toxic for cats?



Lilies!

Although frequently seen in our homes and outside over the spring and summer time, these flowers pose a very serious risk to our feline friends.

Even a small amount of pollen from the anthers, or any part of the plant really, is enough to send a cat into kidney failure. When ordering a flower bouquet, or planting flowers around the yard, make sure to avoid these for the sake of your own pets, and others' outdoor pets.



Visit [ASPCA's Plant List - Dogs](#) and [ASPCA's Plant List - Cats](#) to see if the plants in your home are safe for your pets.

Which of these fragrance forms can be dangerous for cats?



Essential oils!

Cats are especially sensitive to these potent fragrances, and can experience sickness from them whether they are inhaled or ingested. Symptoms can range from stomach upset, all the way to the more severe aspiration pneumonia, central nervous system depression, or liver damage. It's best to stay away from these when trying to deodorize our homes, and opt for a safer option, like a candle. Just make sure they don't get close to the flame!



Which of these medications is unsafe for cats?



Frontline Plus for Dogs AND Tylenol are toxic to cats. Click through for more information about each.



Frontline Plus for Dogs

If you use Frontline as your monthly flea and tick prevention, make sure to buy a separate box labeled for cat use for your feline friends. The version meant for dogs causes severe seizures in cats, if applied both directly AND indirectly. This means if your dogs and cats are best friends, try to separate them after their monthly application, or make sure they aren't rubbing up on one another. Transfer of the dog's Frontline application onto the cat from cuddling-contact or friendly grooming has been known to cause seizures too.



Tylenol/Acetaminophen

As a general rule of thumb, never give any human medication to your pets without discussing with a veterinarian. There are very few human medications that can be used in animals because they process them much differently. A single extra strength Tylenol (acetaminophen) is severely life threatening in cats due to their bodies lacking the ability to break it down.

If there is any known ingestion, make sure to contact your closest emergency veterinarian immediately. If unknown ingestion, be aware of progressive depression, rapid breathing, drooling, blue gums or sclera, dark urine, or facial and limb swelling. Contact your veterinarian immediately after noticing these patterns.



Which of these human foods are toxic to cats?



Gum!

Your feline friends should never be able to get their paws on gum. Gum contains an ingredient called Xylitol. This dangerous compound causes cats to have extremely low blood sugar, a condition called hypoglycemia. Symptoms of this condition include weakness, lethargy, and possible seizures. Xylitol has also been linked to liver-failure in cats. If small children in the home have gum, watch them closely around the family cat to prevent any accidents!



These things are found around the house. Which will make your kitty sick if eaten? (More than 1 answer)



All of them! But why?

All of these can make your cat very sick if eaten!

- Batteries contain acid, that can cause corrosive burns on your cat's lips, mouth and stomach! It can also block food from moving through the intestines.
- Playdough (especially homemade types) contains very high amounts of salt, which can cause dehydration (water loss), vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy and seizures.
- Pennies contain a very toxic amount of zinc. Zinc in the bloodstream can damage red blood cells and can lead to kidney failure!

If you believe your pet has consumed any of the above, contact your veterinarian or the ASPCA Poison Control Center at (888)426-4435.

It's Christmas! You and your family hang mistletoe above the tree. All is merry and bright until the mistletoe falls to the ground and your cat eats it! Should you be concerned?



ABSOLUTE YES!

Mistletoe ingestion can cause:

- Vomiting/Diarrhea
- Decreased Heart Rate
- Difficulty Breathing
- Change in Behavior
- Seizures



Take care to watch what plants are being put up around the holidays and if they are toxic to your pet or not.

Common things cats swallow

These items, if swallowed can cause medical complications. If you think your pet ate any of the items below you can call your local vet for their recommendations and monitor for signs like vomiting, diarrhea, and non-productive retching.

- String
- Sewing needles
- Hair ties

Dog Toxins

Which of these desserts is toxic for dogs?



Chocolate

Chocolate is toxic because it contains a chemical called theobromine, as well as caffeine. Both chemicals are also used medicinally as a diuretic, heart stimulant, blood vessel dilator, and a smooth muscle relaxant. For many dogs, the most common clinical signs are vomiting and diarrhea, increased thirst, panting or restlessness, excessive urination, and a racing heart rate.



We do not recommend giving any dessert to dogs because it can cause GI upset

Which of these fruits is toxic for dogs?



Grapes/Raisins!

There is no well-established toxic dose for any of these fruits but two principles seem to prevail:

- 1) Dogs are more likely to become poisoned if they ingest large amounts of fruit
- 2) Some dogs appear to tolerate small doses without consequence while other dogs may develop poisoning after the ingestion of just a few grapes or raisins. There is no way to predict which dogs may be more sensitive.

A single grape or raisin has the potential to cause kidney failure.



Which of these liquids is toxic for dogs?



Antifreeze!

Ethylene glycol, a sweet-tasting, odorless liquid, is the active ingredient in most automotive antifreeze products. Ethylene glycol can also be found, in lower, less harmful, concentrations, in some windshield de-icing agents, hydraulic brake fluid, motor oils, solvents, paints, film processing solutions, wood stains, inks, printer cartridges, etc. Some possible signs of exposure include vomiting, lethargy, incoordination, seizures, and increased respiratory rate.

It is critical that you bring your dog to a veterinary clinic if you know or even suspect that they have consumed ethylene glycol



True or False:

All peanut butter is safe for dogs to eat.



False!

It is true that most peanut butter is safe to eat. HOWEVER, there are a few brands that use **xylitol** as an artificial sweetener to flavor their product. Xylitol can cause profound hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) which can lead to weakness, seizures, and even liver failure. Xylitol can also be found in many kinds of candy, chewing gum, and baked goods.

Which plant is toxic to dogs?

Grass



Tulips



Tulips!

The ingestion of tulips can cause severe stomach upset and cause the dog to vomit.



True or False:

Macadamia nuts are good for your dog.



False!

The ingestion of macadamia nuts can cause weakness, depression, vomiting, tremors, hyperthermia (increased body temperature), and may cause the dog to wobble when walking. These symptoms may last between 12-48 hours, but the dog should make a full recovery. We still strongly recommend contacting your vet if you have a suspicion your dog has consumed macadamia nuts!



Common things dogs swallow

These items, if swallowed can cause medical complications. If you think your pet ate any of the items below you can call your local vet for their recommendations and monitor for signs like vomiting, diarrhea, and non-productive retching

- Corn cobs
- Socks, underwear, etc.
- Rope toys
- Avocado pits