

# Pet Safety



# Pet Safety

An animal companion can be a best friend. Pets make you laugh and provide the most precious gift of all... love! Like all pet owners, you want to be sure that your animal friends are as safe and secure as the other members of your family. The information in this booklet is intended to help increase awareness of potential dangers to the pets in your home, including seasonal hazards and common poisons. We've also added a section on pets and emergency preparedness.

Included are some tips about keeping pets safe when traveling and some ways that cutting-edge technology can help keep watch on your pet when you are away. The information in this booklet strives to help keep pets safe, and ensure pets and their families a long and joyous life together. Keep this reference handy and be sure to complete the important emergency phone numbers section!

## Safety Tip:

A secure home protects your family, possessions and pets. New technology makes it possible for homes with pets to have state of the art security systems that compensate for the activity of pets, while maintaining the residence's security.

# Contents



## **Pet Safety.....2**

Safety Tip.....2

## **Seasonal Care.....4**

Spring.....4

Summer .....4-5

Fall .....5-6

Winter .....6-7

## **Poisoning Prevention.....8**

Potential Food Hazards for Dogs .....8

Potential Food Hazards for Cats .....8

## **Disaster Preparedness .....9**

Identify evacuation locations .....9

Identify pets with tags and microchips .....9

Enlist a friend or neighbor .....9

Assemble a disaster kit for each pet .....9

Take photos of you with your pets .....9

## **Traveling with Your Pet.....10**

## **Pet Emergency Phone Numbers .....11**

# Seasonal Care

No matter how much we think of them as family members, animals have different needs than people. As your family moves through the seasons of each year, you need to react to your pet's changing needs.

## SPRING



Spring is a very beautiful time of year. However, spring allergies and hay fever may cause animals to scratch, chew and lick themselves. If a pet does these things, consider visiting the veterinarian.

Also of concern during the spring time is the potential consumption of bulbs and plants, many of which may be poisonous to pets. Again, anytime you observe your pet eating plants or other non-food material, a call to either your local pet poison center or to your veterinarian is in order.

Finally, in most locations fleas and ticks begin to be a problem for outdoor pets. Be sure to check with the veterinarian about protecting pets with the appropriate treatment.

## SUMMER



Summer heat can be deadly to animals. As a pet parent you need to be sure that a pet has access to fresh water and that the area they are occupying is kept at a temperature that is appropriate. For animals that have a long coat, be sure that they are groomed regularly. They will stay cooler with a shorter cut.

The interior of a home can reach very high temperatures on a scorching summer day! Be sure to leave a window open if you are going out. If you choose to leave your pet outside, be sure that there is a shaded area or "doghouse" that your pet can go into to cool down.

If you take your pets shopping with you, **NEVER** leave them alone in a car. On warm days a car can heat up very quickly. Even if the temperature is 85 degrees outside, the inside of a car can reach 102 degrees within 10 minutes. And that



number doesn't change much if you leave the windows "cracked open". Dogs, for example, can die or suffer brain damage if their internal temperature is 107 or greater, and this can happen very quickly. If the forecast shows a hot day, leave the pet at home or ask a friend or family member to walk your leashed dog outside as you complete errands. It's better to be safe than sorry!



If you have a reptile, like a snake, frog or lizard, make sure you have a wide, shallow bowl of water that they can drink from and lay in. Be sure to clean the water bowl and give them fresh water frequently.

### Pool Area Safety



We would never allow a young child to be unsupervised near our pools, and we need to have the same concern for our pets. Not all animals can swim and drowning can happen in seconds. Despite common belief, not all dogs can swim, not even all the so-called "water dogs." **NEVER** leave any pet unsupervised around a pool!

### Thunderstorms



Thunderstorms can happen during any season, but are more prevalent during warmer months. Many animals are frightened by the noise and lights associated with the storm. There are several simple steps that you can take to help your pet stay calm. First, don't reward the dog for acting scared. If he weathers the storm calmly, provide him with a treat and praise. Do offer him a hiding spot, he will feel more secure in a padded pet crate or under a piece of furniture.

### FALL



Fall is a wonderful season! Kids in costume, falling leaves and harvest decorations are wonderful signs of the season. However, the same things can endanger our pets. Chocolate is poisonous to most animals and small candies can choke pets. Furthermore,

*continued on page 6*

## Seasonal Care (continued)

costumed visitors can upset even the gentlest pet. It's a good idea to keep your animal in a safe quiet place, away from the goblins and ghosts and be sure that all goodies are kept well away from the animals.



If your pet has fur, this is the season when its winter coat will come in. Be sure to continue with grooming and brush your pet regularly. As many animals can be sensitive to things like indoor pollutants during the cooler seasons, schedule a veterinarian checkup for your pet before the cold weather starts so that you can be prepared.

### Car Antifreeze Precaution



Fall is the season that people begin to winterize their vehicles. Unfortunately, antifreeze is a deadly poison that carries an even greater threat because it tastes sweet. Both dogs and cats like the taste of this toxic substance and the results of ingestion are usually deadly. It takes very little antifreeze to cause the death of a small animal. There are nontoxic forms of antifreeze available and they are suggested for homes with both pets and small children.

### Rodent Poison

Fall is also the time that rodents look for a nice cozy spot to spend the winter. Many people deal with this by using "mouse bait." Be very careful with these poisons as accidental pet ingestion can be lethal. Consider using one of the various mechanical mouse traps (be sure they are out of reach of your pets) or ultrasonic devices available on the market.

## WINTER

It is harder for your pet to stay warm in cold weather. Staying warm requires extra calories and your pet may need more food or a change in diet. Your veterinarian can suggest a diet that will meet your pet's needs.

Ice, snow and mud can all cause skin sensitivity in pets. Ice melt, in particular, can be a problem. Remove ice, salt, mud and snow from your pet's coats and feet as soon as they come inside. Pets can suffer from frostbite if the weather is really cold. If the skin looks reddish, white or grey in cold weather, and looks scaly or is peeling, talk to a veterinarian immediately.



Cats and kittens like to nap on warm places, especially when the weather is cold. The heat from a car engine can be very attractive to cats who have been known to nap underneath the hood, by the engine, to stay warm. To prevent tragedy, knock on the hood of your car or truck or honk the horn, then wait a few minutes before starting the engine. If you live in an area where outdoor or feral cats are prevalent, you may want to actually open the hood and look inside.

### Holiday Pet Diet



Alcoholic beverages, hard candy, chocolate, turkey, pork, fish and bones are just a few of the hazards that face pets during the winter holidays. Want everyone to enjoy the holiday? Keep pets on their regular diet. Another food related hazard are plastic six-pack beverage holders. Kittens especially can become entangled in them. Cut them up before putting into the garbage. This will also help the wildlife at the landfill too (especially birds).

### Holiday Decoration Safety



Holiday decorations should be kept out of the reach of all pets. Electrical cords should not be left hanging where your pet can chew or claw them. Tinsel, glass ornaments, candles, ribbons and plastic or foil wrapping can be toxic if eaten. Keep all of them away from your animals.

### Safety Tip:

No matter what season of the year, it's important to be sure that you know where your pet is. Whether it's holiday confusion, the bustle of summer or a dash through spring showers, it's easy for your pet to slip outdoors without your knowledge. Install a chime system, or use the chime feature of your security system so that you know when your door is opened and check to be sure your pet is secure!

# How Can I Prevent Pet Poisoning in My Home?

Pets are not people. Just because an item is safe for human consumption, it cannot be assumed that it is safe for a pet. Pets are naturally curious; they can't differentiate between safe and hazardous items. We need to do it for them. However, many pet-owners are unaware of even the most common hazards, and fewer still know the number for their local pet poison center. The following lists contain the most common hazards for the two most popular pets, cats and dogs. A local veterinarian can give you more information about common poisons for other animals and provide you the phone number of a local poison center. Keep this information nearby for quick reference in case your pet consumes any item outside his usual diet.

## Potential Food Hazards for DOGS



1. Chocolate
2. Insect bait stations
3. Rodenticides (i.e., mouse and rat poison)
4. Fertilizers
5. Xylitol-containing products (i.e., sugar-free gums and candies)
6. Ibuprofen (Advil® or Motrin® in brand name or generic form)
7. Acetaminophen (Tylenol® in brand name or generic form)
8. Silica gel packs
9. Amphetamines, such as ADD/ADHD drugs
10. Household cleaners

## Potential Food Hazards for CATS



1. Lilies
2. Canine permethrin insecticides (topical flea and tick medicine designed for dogs but erroneously placed on cats)
3. Household cleaners
4. Rodenticides (i.e., mouse and rat poison)
5. Paints and varnishes
6. Veterinary non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications (Rimadyl®, Deramaxx®)
7. Glow sticks/glow jewelry
8. Amphetamines (such as ADD/ADHD drugs)
9. Acetaminophen (Tylenol® in brand name or generic form)
10. Ibuprofen (Advil® or Motrin® in brand name or generic form)



# Disaster Preparedness for Pet Families

## Identify evacuation locations



Most human evacuation shelters do not allow animals. If a disaster forces you from your home and you know that you have a safe place to shelter them, bring your animals with you. It is the safest choice for you and your pets. Identify pet-friendly hotels, boarding kennels and loved ones outside of your immediate area that could accommodate your pets in an emergency.

## Identify pets with tags and permanent microchips



A microchip, a tiny tracking device, is one of the best ways to help lost pets find their families. Veterinarians and many animal control agencies offer the service. Remember to update the microchip information if you move, get a new phone number or change emergency contacts.

## Enlist a friend or neighbor



Suppose that you were away from home and a disaster struck. You might not be able to get home to feed or care for your pets, especially if they are behind disaster lines. Exchange keys and disaster plans with a trusted neighbor who can remove your animals in case of an evacuation. Make sure your trusted neighbor is familiar with your pets.

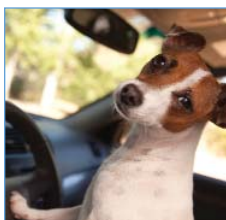
## Assemble a disaster kit for each pet

A disaster kit contains food, water, medication and other supplies you may not be able to get if roads and businesses are closed. Assemble one for each animal in your household and keep it near an exit so it can easily be grabbed if forced to leave.

## Take photos of you with your pets

If separated from your pets, photographs can prove ownership in order to reclaim them from a shelter. Keep photographs in your wallet and disaster kit.

## Traveling with Your Pet



Vacations are wonderful, but if you are like most pet owners, the thought of an upcoming road trip leads to questions about how to handle your pet. Plan ahead and prepare carefully if you plan to travel with family pets. But first ask yourself if your animal's temperament is suited to travel. Some animals' personalities or health conditions render them unfit for traveling. Consider if your pet is well socialized and will be able to cope with strange people, situations or other animals that may be encountered during vacation. If you decide that you're pet would be better off staying at home, research safe places that will board your pet. Also consider hiring a pet sitter, or asking a friend to visit each day, care for the pet and give it some play time.

If traveling by car, consider whether or not your pet is comfortable in the vehicle before committing to a long road trip. Before the trip, expose your pet to short car rides so that you know how the pet adapts. A car-sick pet does not contribute to an enjoyable vacation. If you find that your pet suffers from car sickness, ask a veterinarian about a mild sedative or appropriate anti-nausea medication. While you are at the veterinarian, consider asking for a copy of your pet's health records to bring with you on your trip.

Be sure your pet is welcome where you are staying. If you will be staying with friends or family along the way, be considerate and ask them in advance if your pet is welcome. Check with hotels, motels, parks and campgrounds and be sure they permit pets. If they do, be sure to find out what is permitted. Some hotels bar specific breeds, other may require an additional deposit to cover potential damage. Be sure to leave a "do not disturb" sign on the door and if possible, bring a crate or kennel to keep your pet secure if you need to leave your pet alone. Familiar toys, his food dish and bed or blankets will also help ease the transition to a new environment, so bring them.



Always be sure your pet is wearing an ID tag and, if possible, also has an imbedded identification microchip. While both forms of ID should contain accurate contact information, consider not including your pet's name on its ID tag. How a

### Safety Tip:

If you need to leave your pet with a sitter, either for vacation or on a regular basis because of work scheduling, you may want to consider a service like Honeywell's Total Connect Video Services. With Total Connect you can see what your pet is doing from your PC, Blackberry®, iPhone®, iPad™, iPod touch® or other wireless hand held device. Knowing that your pet is being well cared for can greatly enhance your peace-of-mind.

pet responds to hearing its name used could be helpful in reuniting a lost or stolen pet with its rightful owner. Remember, carry a photograph of you and your pet together, so you can help prove ownership if necessary. It's also a good idea to carry proof of rabies vaccination and a record of other vaccinations.

## Our Pet's Emergency Phone Numbers

Pet's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Medications: \_\_\_\_\_

Vet's phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest animal hospital's phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest Vet's emergency number: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal poison control number: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other special concerns: \_\_\_\_\_



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Animal Nations

[www.uan.org/disastertips](http://www.uan.org/disastertips)

Purchasing a security system for your home or business is an important decision. Start by choosing a First Alert Professional or Honeywell authorized dealer who will provide the best products and services.

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