

### ! WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Thousands of animals are poisoned every year. Would you know what to do if your pet got into some of your medication? How about if your pet drank something harmful from your garage, garden or home? Although most of the calls to Florida's Poison Control Centers concern human exposures, many calls are about pets exposed to potential poisons or harmful substances. Just like people, pets can be protected to prevent accidental poisonings.



### ? HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?

Poisonings in pets can happen in all areas of your home. Look closely at the places your pet goes. Pets are very curious and will oftentimes eat or drink something that is left where they can reach it.

### ✓ PREVENTION STRATEGIES

- Never give your pet “human” medication unless told to do so by your veterinarian. Keep all medications in secure, high places and properly dispose of old medications.
- Keep cleaning products in high places out of your pet's reach and empty mop buckets when finished with them.

- Always follow guidelines on all flea and tick products.
- Some “people foods” are not safe for your pets. A few to keep away from your animals would be chocolate, grapes, raisins, currants, unbaked bread dough and macadamia nuts.
- Many household plants are toxic to dogs and cats. Know the names of the plants found indoors and outdoors.
- Just one mothball can be toxic to animals. Do not put mothballs anywhere that pets can get to them, including the yard.
- Automotive fluids, especially antifreeze and windshield fluid, can be potentially life threatening.
- Keep the number for the poison center handy. It is 1-800-222-1222. The health care providers at the poison center can often assist with a pet poisoning emergency or refer you to an animal poison center if needed.

### 🔍 RESOURCES

- Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) <https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control>
- Pet Poison Helpline <http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/>

**For any poisoning or medicine mistake, call your poison control center immediately at 1-800-222-1222.**

Calls are answered by doctors, nurses and pharmacists, and are quick, free and confidential. [www.floridapoisoncontrol.org](http://www.floridapoisoncontrol.org)