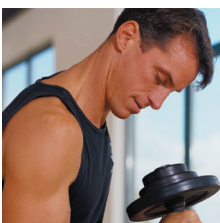
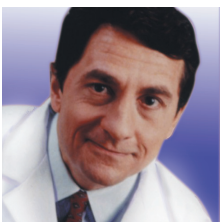
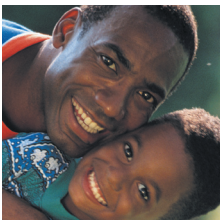
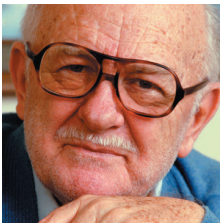
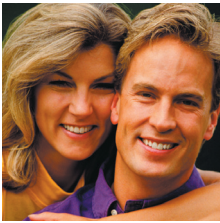


Protecting Your Pets



Like many pet owners, Ed Cornwell considers his dog a part of the family. So when his pet German Shepherd, “B-Bear,” was recently poisoned, Ed felt like he almost lost a child. The near-tragic episode began when B-Bear frightened a stranger who was walking in their neighborhood. Cornwell explains, “B-Bear saw the person, and of course, like a German Shepherd, started barking profusely at her (but) never got within five feet of her. And almost immediately, the person started screaming at B-Bear, cussing and threatened her and threatened to kill her and said ‘I’ve got something for you.’”

The next day at work, Cornwell got a phone call, “My daughter told me B-Bear found a ham bone and within 20 minutes was throwing up. And instantly I thought about the girl from the day before.” After being rushed to the animal hospital, B-Bear tested positive for ethylene glycol, or antifreeze poisoning. CBN News producer, Lorie Johnson, explains the urgency of the Cornwell situation, “Antifreeze is so poisonous, unless treated immediately, pets will die within 7 hours, depending on how much of it they drank. They usually find it in driveways and in parking lots after it’s leaked out of a radiator. And they like the taste because it’s sweet.” Dr. Ann Ayre, DVM, from Owl Creek Veterinary Hospital shares what she believes happened to B-Bear, “This was a purposeful poisoning, which isn’t a very common thing, but somebody, we really believe, purposefully put this antifreeze into the ham and had her ingest it.”

The sickening statistics reveal that hundreds of thousands of pets are poisoned every year; and the sad thing is, when their owners take them to the veterinary hospital, they often don’t even know that what their pet ingested was bad for them. This happens most often with some “people” food. Many types of food we humans enjoy, such as grapes, raisins, avocados, and onions can seriously harm pets. Also watch out for products containing xylitol, a sugar alcohol used in “sugar free” foods and chewing gums. Treats for people aren’t the same as treats for pets. Beware of chocolate, especially dark chocolate, which can cause heart problems and seizures. And don’t ever give any type of medicine for humans to your pet without first checking with your veterinarian. Just one acetaminophen (Tylenol®) will kill an average-sized cat. Dr. Ayre warns pet owners, “People administering other nonsteroidals, or pain-killers, to their dog, thinking ‘well, if it’s ok for me, it’s ok for the dog’ -because they’ve been prescribed Celebrex® for arthritic pain, they think it’s fine to give to the dog, and that causes immediate stomach rupture.”

Johnson warns homeowners, “Items that are made to kill other animals can also kill your pet, like bug spray and rat poison. Many baits used to attract rodents are attractive to pets, too.” Johnson adds, “Many plants are also poisonous to pets, like the lily...very popular at Easter and very attractive to cats. But, if a cat nibbles on just a small amount, it will likely die within 48 hours of irreversible kidney failure.”

So, although our homes are generally safe for us humans, they can be riddled with pet poisons. “But with a little know-how you can pet-proof your environment and keep your beloved furry family members around for many years to come,” Lorie Johnson, CBN News.

AN EMERGENCY FIRST-AID KIT FOR YOUR PET

Accidents can happen anywhere, anytime, so it's smart to be prepared in case of an emergency. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center recommends that you either purchase or put together yourself, an emergency first-aid kit for your pet. The kit should contain:

- Fresh bottle of hydrogen peroxide, 3 percent USP (to induce vomiting)
- Turkey baster, bulb syringe or large medicine syringe (to administer peroxide)
- Saline eye solution
- Artificial tear gel (to lubricate eyes after flushing)
- Mild grease-cutting dishwashing liquid (for bathing an animal after skin contamination)
- Forceps or tweezers (to remove stingers)
- Muzzle (to protect against fear- or excitement-induced biting)
- Can of your pet's favorite wet food
- Pet carrier

Always consult a veterinarian or the APCC for directions on how and when to use any emergency first-aid item. And keep the telephone number of the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center—(888) 426-4435—as well as that of your local veterinarian in a prominent location. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center is staffed by 30 veterinarians, including 13 who are board-certified in general and veterinary toxicology. In addition, their experts use Antox, a unique veterinary medical database system providing the most timely and accurate information on the potential effects of poisons and how to manage exposures to them. The APCC experts are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The call is toll-free. **Please be aware that a \$65 consultation fee may be applied to your credit card.**

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR PET IS POISONED

According to the ASPCA, **DON'T PANIC**. Rapid response is important, but panicking can interfere with the process of helping your pet. Take 30 to 60 seconds to safely collect and have at hand any material involved. This may be of great benefit to your vet and/or APCC toxicologists, as they determine what poison or poisons are involved. In the event that you need to take your pet to a local veterinarian, be sure to take the product's container with you. Also, collect in a sealable plastic bag any material your pet may have vomited or chewed.

If you witness your pet consuming material that you suspect might be toxic, do not hesitate to seek emergency assistance, even if you do not notice any adverse effects. Sometimes, even if poisoned, an animal may appear normal for several hours or for days after the incident.

If you suspect that your pet may have become exposed to a harmful substance, but is not showing signs of illness, stay calm! Contact your local veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center hotline at (888) 426-4435 first. Not all exposure situations require an immediate trip to the clinic.

Be ready with the following information:

- The species, breed, age, sex, weight and number of animals involved.
- The animal's symptoms.
- Information regarding the exposure, including the agent (if known), the amount of the agent involved and the time elapsed since the time of exposure.
- Have the product container/packaging available for reference if possible.

Please note: If your animal is having seizures, losing consciousness, is unconscious or is having difficulty breathing, telephone ahead and bring your pet immediately to your local veterinarian or emergency veterinary clinic. If necessary, he or she may call the APCC.

TOXIC PLANTS

The following is a list of the 17 most common poisonous plants. However, it's important to keep in mind that even "safe" or non-toxic plants can produce minor stomach upset if ingested. For details on specific plants, or for a full list of toxic plants, visit the ASPCA Web site: www.aspca.org/apcc. The top 17 are:

- | | | | | |
|------------|----------------|----------------|---|--|
| ♦Lilies | ♦Marijuana | ♦Sago Palm | ♦Tulip/Narcissus bulbs | ♦Azalea/Rhododendron |
| ♦Oleander | ♦Castor Bean | ♦Cyclamen | ♦Kalanchoe | ♦Yew |
| ♦Amaryllis | ♦Autumn Crocus | ♦Chrysanthemum | ♦English Ivy | ♦Peace Lily (AKA Mauna Loa Peace Lily) |
| ♦Pothos | ♦Schefflera | ♦Pointsettias | (The sap is an irritant to a cat's or dog's mouth and stomach, sometimes causing vomiting, but generally over-rated in toxicity.) | |

PEOPLE FOODS TO AVOID FEEDING YOUR PETS

These foods may taste delicious to you, but they're actually quite dangerous for our animal companions. Experts at the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center have created this handy list of the top toxic "people foods" to avoid feeding your pets:

- | | | | |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| ✗ Alcoholic beverages | ✗ Avocado | ✗ Chocolate (all forms) | ✗ Coffee (all forms) |
| ✗ Caffeine | ✗ Milk | ✗ Fatty foods | ✗ Macadamia nuts |
| ✗ Moldy or spoiled foods | ✗ Onions, onion powder | ✗ Raisins and grapes | ✗ Salt, salty foods |
| ✗ Yeast dough | ✗ Garlic, Chives | ✗ Products sweetened with xylitol | |
| ✗ Raw/Undercooked Meat, Eggs and Bones | | | |

Fact Resources

Information found in this edition of *A Closer Look* is from the CBN News story "Pets & Poison" by Lori Johnson; first airing on *The 700 Club*, Wednesday, February 10, 2010.

Additional fact sheet information on toxic plants, foods, medications, and what to do if your pet is poisoned can be found at The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' Web site www.aspca.org and the Animal Poison Control Center's Web site www.aspca.org/apcc.

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center provides 24-hour-a-day, year-round advice on animal poison-related emergencies to pet parents, veterinarians and animal clinic professionals. The APCC is staffed by 30 veterinarians, including 13 who are board-certified in general and veterinary toxicology, with access to an extensive database to help diagnose problems and give treatment advice. For more information on the APCC, call 1-888-426-4911 or visit www.aspca.org/apcc.

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at **(888) 426-4435**. The call is toll-free. However, if a consultation is desired, a \$65 consultation fee will be applied to your credit card. This fee includes follow-up consultation should you or your vet need further assistance with your pet's case.

Disclaimer: This fact sheet was designed to provide readers with important pet safety information. It is not intended to help treat any pet. The lists of hazardous plants, foods, and medicines are not exhaustive lists; nor does this fact sheet include everything that can harm a pet. If your pet gets hurt or sick, we strongly recommend that you contact your veterinarian immediately.

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