



■ Overview

The average home contains dozens of substances toxic to pets. Most poisonings occur not from exotic chemicals but from everyday items — medications, cleaning products, certain foods, and common plants. Pets explore with their mouths and often ingest toxic substances before owners realize the danger.

■ **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center:** (888) 426-4435 — 24/7, fee may apply. Save this number now. aspca.org/apcc

■ **Pet Poison Helpline:** (855) 764-7661 — 24/7, fee may apply. petpoisonhelpline.com

■■ Signs of Poisoning (General)

- Vomiting or diarrhea (sudden onset)
- Excessive drooling or foaming at mouth
- Tremors, seizures, or muscle weakness
- Disorientation or stumbling
- Difficulty breathing
- Pale, blue, or yellow gums
- Collapse

■ Major Household Toxin Categories

Human Medications

- NSAIDs (ibuprofen, naproxen) — kidney and GI ulcer damage
- Acetaminophen (Tylenol) — liver failure in dogs; FATAL to cats at tiny doses
- Antidepressants (SSRIs, SNRIs) — serotonin syndrome, seizures
- Sleep aids and antihistamines — severe CNS depression
- ADHD medications — dangerous cardiovascular stimulation
- Blood pressure medications — life-threatening hypotension



Foods

- Xylitol (sugar-free products) — hypoglycemia, liver failure
- Grapes and raisins — acute kidney failure
- Chocolate and caffeine — cardiac and neurological toxicity
- Onions, garlic, leeks, chives — red blood cell destruction (all forms)
- Macadamia nuts — weakness, tremors, fever in dogs
- Alcohol — severe CNS and respiratory depression
- Raw yeast dough — expands in stomach, produces ethanol

Household Chemicals

- Rodenticides (rat/mouse poison) — multiple mechanisms; all are life-threatening
- Antifreeze (ethylene glycol) — sweet taste attracts pets; causes kidney failure
- Bleach and cleaning products — GI burns, respiratory irritation
- Fertilizers — GI toxicity; some contain iron, which is highly toxic
- Insecticides (permethrin) — extremely toxic to CATS; used in dog flea products
- Pool chemicals — chemical burns, chlorine gas irritation

Plants

- All true lilies — kidney failure in cats
- Sago palm — liver failure in both species
- Oleander, foxglove — cardiac toxicity
- Azaleas, rhododendrons — cardiovascular and neurological
- (See full Toxic Plants guide for comprehensive list)

■ When to See a Veterinarian

■ **THIS IS A VETERINARY EMERGENCY — GO NOW.** If your pet is showing any of the signs described in this guide, stop reading and drive directly to your nearest 24-hour emergency vet. Do not wait until morning. Do not call first. **Go immediately.**

Bring the product, label, or a photo of the substance. Tell the vet approximately how much was consumed and when.

■ Prevention

- Store all medications in child-proof (and pet-proof) cabinets
- Never give human medications to pets without explicit veterinary instruction
- Use pet-safe cleaning products or keep pets out of rooms until completely dry
- Check antifreeze product storage — even a small puddle in the garage is dangerous



- Read all flea/tick product labels: permethrin-containing dog products can kill cats

■ Final Summary

Most poisonings are preventable with pet-safe storage habits. When exposure happens, act fast — the window for effective decontamination is narrow.

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■ Related XVC Guides:

- [Toxic Plants](#) · [Chocolate Toxicity](#) · [Xylitol Poisoning](#) · [Grape & Raisin Toxicity](#)
- [Medication Overdose – What to Do](#) · [When to Go to the Emergency Vet](#)



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