

Pawsitive Press

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DON'T PUT THAT IN YOUR MOUTH!!

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We have made it through Christmas and Valentine's Day, but Easter is soon approaching. And let's face it, our pets don't need a Holiday to find a treat to stuff their face with. Many of you may have gotten pets as a gift recently, and there are tips you should know to help puppy and kitten proof your house. Puppies and kittens are inherently inquisitive and it is your job to protect them from injury. Here are some items you may or may not have realized pose a risk.

XYLITOL: Xylitol is a form of artificial sweetener very common in everyday products such as sugar-free gums, mints, toothpastes, certain bakery products, etc. This seemingly harmless ingredient that attracts our sweet tooth, can cause dangerously low blood sugar and liver damage in our pets. Pets that get into these products often need to be monitored in a veterinary hospital for 24 hours or more. During that time we will place them on intravenous fluids and run sequential blood sugar and liver enzyme checks. As a precaution



make sure to check where you leave your purses, what you leave in your pockets, etc.

RAISINS/GRAPES:

Though our two legged kids love fruity treats, these specific fruits have a toxic effect on the renal system of our four legged kids and can sadly cause kidney failure. Their toxic principle isn't very well understood and the amount of product ingestion that can cause toxicity is very variable. Therefore we advise not giving even a single one as any form of treat.

POISONOUS PLANTS:

Examples of poisonous plants can include lilies, elephant ear, poinsettia, oleander, philodendron, azalea, ivy, spider plants, holly, and potpourris. Lilies become an especially large concern around Easter and seem to be a major concern in cats. They can cause gastrointestinal upset in any pet due to ingestion of

foreign material. But in cats specifically, parts of the leaves, stems, and petals can cause serious damage such as kidney failure. Lilly toxicosis is treatable if caught very early. Treatment is similar to the aforementioned xylitol toxicity, and also involves being in the hospital on IV fluids for days while monitoring blood kidney values. In Florida Palm nuts are a common hazard due to the high risk of obstruction when pets eat them. Often times they become stuck when trying to pass from the stomach through the small bowel. Always be outside with your puppies so you know what they may be trying to chew on or ingest. Even the fake green plastic grass in Easter baskets can pose an obstructive risk if swallowed. If you have your lawn treated with chemicals, you should also follow advises on keeping your pets off at time of application, and afterwards for the advised avoidance time on product label. For cats in particular, try and avoid any linear foreign objects such as string, floss, tinsel, etc. These can pose a huge risk if swallowed because they can get stuck up high in the gi tract and

Hazards Continued

start to erode through the intestinal wall as the body tries to pass it along. This can be fatal!

CHOCOLATE: In addition to caffeine, chocolate has a toxic ingredient called theobromine. And when ingested in high enough quantity or concentrations it can cause tremors, seizures, coma, and even death. If your pet is lucky to avoid such serious side effects, you may still see vomit, diarrhea, pancreatitis, etc. White chocolate is the least toxic and the risk ascends through milk chocolate with much more danger in darker chocolates and baking chocolates.

HOUSEHOLD CLEANING AGENTS AND MEDS:

Watch out for ingestion of products that may tempt your pet’s curiosity such as antifreeze, bleach, window cleaner, drain cleaner, gasoline, paints, etc. Also make sure your medications are kept up and away in cabinets. Even one Tylenol can be toxic enough to be fatal to your cat!! Many drugs such as pain killers, sleeping pills, blood pressure meds, antidepressants, diet pills, cold medicine, and even certain vitamins can cause great harm to your pet. Always ask your veterinarian before assuming you may be helping your pet by sharing your medication. Our answer may surprise you. Sometimes pets can take our meds, sometimes they take higher doses than us, and sometimes even one pill of

ours can be fatal.

EVERYDAY HAZARDS:

Watch for anything they can put in their mouth and/or try and swallow, such as small pet toys, children’s toys, electrical wires, etc. Certain risks can be associated with the touch of objects, such as heat sources like hot ovens, flat irons, space heaters, etc. Sometimes your pet may be able to even jump up onto the counter when you think objects are at a safe distance. In Florida especially, swimming pools can be a high risk for young and old pets alike. They do not all know how to swim and drowning is a real tragedy we are faced with in practice more than I would like to report.

I am so excited for you to embark on this journey with your pet and hope that this article provides some information on hazards that may not be as obvious or that you didn’t even recognize as a risk. We are here to help in any way we can from taking precautions to assisting you when accidents do happen. Fur babies are babies, they need guidance and supervision and it is your job and ours to keep them as safe and healthy as possible. Please know we are here if you need us ☺

10 Most Toxic Foods & Substances



National Puppy Day: Tips for a Happy Puppy



National Puppy Day is a day to celebrate the magic and unconditional love that puppies bring to our lives. It's also a day to help save orphaned puppies across the globe and educate the public about the horrors of puppy mills, as well as further the mission for a nation of puppy-free pet stores. While National Puppy Day supports responsible breeding, the day is all about encouraging prospective families to consider adoption as a first choice.

Choosing the Right Breed & Size

When considering bringing a puppy into your home, make sure that you've researched the breed you're adopting, taking into consideration their size, temperament, activity level, breed characteristics and other needs in relation to your home environment and family lifestyle. When adopting, make sure to ask if you can be alone in a more isolated area to interact with the puppy and observe his or her behavior. Also ask the shelter staff about the personality of the puppy you're interested in, as they will have spent more time assessing their emotional and behavioral traits.

Child/Puppy Safety

If you have small children, really young, hyper puppies are not a good match because they can scratch and chew on sensitive fingers and hands. Never adopt a puppy that is less than at least 8-10 weeks old, preferably 12 weeks or older, as they have had more time to learn social cues from their littermates and mother, which helps a puppy behave better in the long term. Teach young children to never pull on a puppy's ears or tail, as both are sensitive and could injure and scare the puppy, creating a bonding problem between child and puppy.

Finances

Keep in mind that your puppy won't be a puppy forever. Visualize how much your puppy will grow and how much they'll eat. Make sure you know ahead of time that you can afford to feed your puppy once full grown. Veterinary trips are always inevitable at some point and time, so keeping an emergency fund for your dog is a smart idea, so you don't get caught with major vet bills you can't afford to pay.

Exercise

Puppies need exercise every day, preferably shorter walks more often, as young puppies tire easily, especially in heat. Make sure to read about the breed or breeds of a mixed breed puppy to better understand what your puppy needs in terms of physical activity.

Teething

When your puppy is teething, he will try to gnaw on anything he can find to relieve his discomfort. The best way to quell this is with puppy teething rings that you can put in the freezer and once frozen, give to your puppy to chew on. If you can't afford products like this from the pet store, take an old washcloth, cut it into strips and tie a few small knots in it, sticking the strips in a plastic bag and placing in the freezer. Once frozen, hold a frozen strip and allow your puppy to chew on it, which will help to soothe and numb sensitive gums. Always hold it for them and never allow your puppy to chew on it unattended.

Spay & Neuter

Always plan to spay or neuter your puppy. Generally, if you adopt, which we always encourage, the shelter or rescue has most likely done it for you but if they haven't, there are many low cost spay and neuter programs in most cities nationwide. Sadly, the world is overflowing with unwanted puppies and allowing your puppy to grow up and breed is just adding to that problem. Shelters are overcrowded and because of it, millions of unwanted puppies lose their lives every year. Please don't be part of the problem...be part of the solution!





Animal Hospital
OF DUNEDIN
Caring for Pets with Love and Kindness

\$1

\$1 First Exam - New Patient

(\$49-\$80 Savings)

Includes comprehensive physical exam and one vaccine. Does not include 3yr Rabies vaccine or Holistic/Acupuncture appointments. Must be presented at the time of purchase. Coupon may not be combined with any other offer.

NL



Animal Hospital
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-10%

10% Off Dental Cleaning

(Call for an appointment today 727-733-9351)

Discount applies to anesthesia, prophylaxis, and any other dental radiographs or extractions that might be needed. Offer excludes required pre-dental labwork. May not be combined with any other coupons or discounts. Must be presented at the time of purchase.

Expires 3/31/17 NL



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2 Months Free Advantage Multi

(\$36.00 - \$42.00 savings)

Buy one 6 pack of Advantage Multi and get 2 months same size free. Patient must have been seen by a doctor at the Animal Hospital of Dunedin within the past year. May not be combined with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase.

Expires 3/31/17 NL

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