The following is a list of over-the-counter medications, household products, foods, and other items that may be potentially toxic to a pet. This is not an all-inclusive list. Many human prescription drugs have a significant potential to be toxic to small animals. Further, any substance ingested in a sufficient quantity can likewise be toxic. If you are uncertain, call your veterinarian or an animal poison control center to seek help.

**Animal Poison Control Centers**
Poison Control Centers in the United States that specialize in providing information specific to veterinary patients will be able to provide more specific assistance. The following are available 24 hours a day and charge a nominal fee for their services:

- Pet Poison Hotline  
  800-213-6680  
  http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/

- ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center  
  888-426-4435  
  https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control

**Over The Counter Medications**

**Acetaminophen**
- Human use: analgesic and antipyretic
- Contraindicated in cats at any dosage and not recommended in ferrets. Can be toxic in dogs.

**Alpha Lipoic Acid**
- Human use: dietary supplement to help manage diabetes
- Dose dependent toxicity in dogs and cats. Cats are very sensitive.

**Aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid)**
- Human use: analgesic, anti-inflammatory, antipyretic
- Used therapeutically in dogs and cats but toxicity is dose dependent.

**Caffeine**
- Human use: stimulant found in some analgesics, coffee, energy drinks, chocolate and some other foods
- Toxic to dogs and cats.

**Dextromethorphan**
- Human use: cough suppressant
- Dose dependent toxicity in animals.

**5-Hydroxytryptophan**
- Human use: dietary supplement
- Toxic to dogs and cats.

**Ibuprofen**
- Human use: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug
- Not recommended for veterinary use. Toxic to dogs cats and ferrets.

**Imidazolines (oxymetazoline, tetrahydrozoline, naphazoline, tolazoline)**
- Human use: decongestants use in eye and nasal preparations
- Not recommended for veterinary use. Toxic to all pets.

**Iron**
- Human use: mineral supplement, found in multi-vitamin supplements, and has many other commercial uses
- Toxic to dogs.

**Naproxen**
- Human use: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug
- Not recommended for use in small animals. Highly toxic to dogs, cats, and ferrets.

**Permethrin**
- Human use: topical insecticide; over-the-counter lice treatment product
- Toxic to cats
Phenazopyridine
   Human use: urinary analgesic
   May be toxic to dogs and cats
Phenylephrine
   Human use: orally administered nasal decongestant
   May be toxic to dogs and cats at high doses
Pseudoephedrine
   Human use: orally administered nasal decongestant
   Can be highly toxic to dogs and cats
Vitamin D
   Human use: oral vitamin, component of multi-vitamin products, and found in rodenticides
   Can be toxic to small animals

Other Medicinal Products
Benzyl Alcohol
   Use: preservative
   May be very toxic to cats
Peppermint Oil (including menthol and peppermint oil)
   Use: scent, aromatic
   Toxic to cats
Propylene Glycol
   Use: found in “safer” antifreeze, hair dyes, disinfectants and paints or varnish
   Toxic to dogs and cats
Tea Tree Oil (melaleuca oil)
   Use: topical antibacterial
   Highly toxic both orally and topically to dogs and especially to cats
Xylitol
   Use: substitute sweetener found in sugar-free foods, gum, breath mints, dental hygiene products, baked goods, nasal sprays, and more
   Can be toxic to dogs

Foods
Allium (garlic, onion, leeks, chives)
   May be toxic to dogs and cats
Chocolate
   Toxic to dogs and cats
Grapes, raisins, currants (Vitis species)
   Toxic to dogs
Macadamia Nuts
   Toxic to dogs

Household Products
Acids
   Examples: drain cleaner, metal cleaner, hair wave neutralizers, rust removers, and vinegar
   Can cause severe tissue damage related to concentration
   Do NOT induce emesis (vomiting)
Alkalis/bases
   Examples: drain cleaners, dry cell batteries, hair relaxers, lye, oven cleaner, non-chlorine bleach
   Can cause severe tissue damage related to concentration
   Do NOT induce emesis (vomiting)
Anticoagulant Rodenticides
   Examples: brodifacoum, bromadiolone, chlorphacinone, difethialone, diphacinone, and warfarin
   Toxic to all mammals and birds
Bromethalin Rodenticides
   Examples: Tomcat, d-Con, others
   Toxic to all species

CUHA Pharmacy Department is open Monday thru Friday from 8am to 6pm and Saturdays from 8am to 12 noon.
Calcium Chloride  
Examples: Ice melt products  
May cause skin and gastrointestinal tract irritation and erosion

DEET  
Examples: found in many insect repellants  
Absorbed through the skin in dogs

Ethanol  
Examples: hand sanitizers and alcoholic beverages  
Can be toxic to animals

Ethylene Glycol  
Examples: found in automotive antifreeze  
Toxic to dogs and cats

Metaldehyde  
Examples: commonly found in snail and slug baits  
Toxic to dogs and cats

Methanol  
Examples: organic solvent found in windshield washer fluid, paint thinner, and household cleaning products  
Toxic to dogs and cats

Mothballs  
Examples: naphthalene and paradichlorobenzene (PDB)  
Toxic to all species via ingestion, inhalation, or dermal contact

Expanding polyurethane glues containing diisocyanate  
Examples: Gorilla Glue and Elmer’s ProBond  
Not biochemically toxic, but glue expands and can cause esophageal and gastric obstructions

Miscellaneous Items

Glow Toys and Jewelry  
Further identification: liquid filled safety sticks. glow sticks, and other similar toys  
Contain dibutylphthalate which is mildly toxic to dogs and cats

Lilies  
Further identification: lily plant species *illium* and *Hemerocallis*, including potted plants, cut flowers, leaves, petals, pollen, and vase water  
Highly toxic to cats

Liquid Potpourri  
Further identification: simmer pot products which may contain cationic detergents and/or essential oils  
May absorb across the skin, as well as orally, in dogs and cats  
Do NOT induce emesis (vomiting)

Lithium Ion Disc Batteries  
Further identification: button batteries for watches, toys, hearing aids, and other applications  
Ingestion is toxic to cats and dogs due to electrical current flow causing tissue damage

United States Pennies  
Further identification: one-cent pieces minted after 1982  
High zinc content is toxic to dogs and cats

CUHA Pharmacy Department is open Monday thru Friday from 8am to 6pm and Saturdays from 8am to 12 noon.