



SMALL ANIMAL TOXINS

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

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