

# East-West

## Animal Hospital

March 2011

### HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

#### Top Toxins of the Year:

Both known and unknown toxins can be found hiding in our houses and yards. In 2010, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) in Urbana, IL, fielded more than 167,000 phone calls about pets exposed to possibly poisonous substances.

If you have any reason to suspect your pet has ingested something toxic, please contact your veterinarian or the Animal Poison Control Center's 24-hour hotline at (888) 426-4435.

#### Human Medications:

Human Medications are once again at the top of the list of pets toxins for 2010. Almost 25% of the ASPCA's calls concerned human medications accidentally ingested by pets. The most common culprits include over-the-counter medications (ibuprofen, acetaminophen) antidepressants and ADHD medications.

#### Insecticides:

About 20% of the calls to the APCC are about insecticides. Insecticides are commonly used on our pets for flea control and around our houses to control crawling and flying bugs. The most serious poisonings occur when products that are not labeled for use on cats were applied to them. Always follow label directions.

#### Rodenticides:

Baits used to kill mice and rats are mostly grain based. Not only does this attract rodents, but it attracts dogs and cats. There are several different types of rodenticides that can cause seizures, internal bleeding, or kidney failure. Always make sure these items are placed in areas that pets cannot access.



#### "Toys" to avoid:

Most animals will play with anything shiny and anything that makes any kind of noise. Cats especially like to play with things that make crinkle noises. Different things to look out for, and keep away from your pet's reach are:

- Party Favors
- Paper Poppers
- Silly String
- Tinsel
- Bows
- Tape
- Paper or plastic shopping bags
- Gift bags
- Any Ribbon from signs and other favors
- Party Signs made of plastic.

If you see any of these items on the floor, it would be highly advised that they be picked up and disposed of, kept on a high shelf, or kept in a drawer or other storage area. The crinkle sound is highly attractive to dogs, and cats, alike.



#### Contact:

Phone: 813-948-6534  
Fax: 813-949-5533  
1524 Land O' Lakes Blvd  
Lutz, FL 33549

#### Emergencies (8p-6a):

Tampa Bay VES  
813-265-4043  
238 E Bearss Ave  
Tampa, FL 33613

### **People food:**

Xylitol, grapes, raisins, onions and garlic are commonly ingested by our pets. Grapes and raisins can cause kidney failure in dogs, while onions and garlic can cause anemia if enough is ingested. Xylitol, a sugar alcohol used to sweeten sugar-free gum and mints, can cause low blood sugar, and liver failure, in dogs and cats alike.

### **Veterinary medications:**

Many medications made for our pets are flavored for ease of giving. Unfortunately, that means that animals may ingest the entire bottle of medication if they find it tasty. Common chewable medications include arthritis and incontinence supplements. Contact your veterinarian if your pet ingests more than his or her proper dose of these or any medications.



### **Chocolate:**

Chocolate contains methylxanthines, which act as a stimulant to our pets. The darker the chocolate, the more methylxanthines it contains. Methylxanthines can cause agitation, vomiting, diarrhea, high heart rate, muscle tremors, seizures, and possibly death.

### **Household Toxins:**

Cleaning supplies, such as bleach, acid, alkalis and other detergents, can cause corrosive injury to the mouth and stomach. Other household items such as batteries and liquid potpourri can cause similar problems. Always keep these toxins behind securely locked doors.

### **Herbicides:**

Many herbicides have a salty taste, and our pets will commonly ingest them. Always follow labeled directions and keep pets off of treated areas until they are dry to the touch.

### **Outdoor Toxins:**

Antifreeze, fertilizers, and ice melts are all substances that animals can find outdoors. Keep these items in securely locked sheds or on high shelves where pets cannot get to them.



### **Signs Your Pet Needs Attention Immediately:**

- Vomiting/Diarrhea
- Unintended weight-loss/gain
- Change in appetite-decreased or increased
- Change in normal activity level:
  - Lethargy
  - Hyperactivity
  - Restlessness
- Limping
- Sudden inability to move back legs or collapse
- Crying when touched
- Clumsy/disoriented behavior
- Seizures
- Any loss of consciousness
- Coughing (especially at night)
- Any difficult or labored breathing
- Any blue, purple, or pale hue to the tongue or gums
- Excessive drooling
- Change in urination:
  - Location
  - Frequency
  - Amount
  - Color
  - Smell
- Straining in the litter box without producing urine
- Panting in a cat
- Bloated abdomen
- Sneezing excessively
- Uncontrolled bleeding from any orifice
- Bruising anywhere
- Any unusual odor or hair loss
- Runny nose, eyes, or squinting

### **Office Hours:**

Monday and Friday: 7.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.  
Tues, Wed, and Thurs: 7.30 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.  
Phone: 813.948.6534 ----- Fax: 813.949.5533

