

Cautions for Cats and Dogs

Here are some potential household dangers facing cats and dogs:
UNEXPECTED HOUSE DANGERS: Snack bags (suffocation), Legos or small craft items, glue, liquid potpourri

Danger foods:

Avocados – Are NOT poisonous to dogs and cats, but may cause upset stomach. Biggest danger is the pit blocking the airway or being swallowed and stuck in the stomach or intestines.

Macadamia nuts – Can cause muscle tremors, paralysis and choking.

Sugar-free peanut butter – Contains xylitol, an artificial sweetener that can cause seizures, liver failure in dogs and drop in blood sugar. (FYI: xylitol is 100 times more dangerous than the theobromine found in chocolate to dogs and cats.) Be aware that xylitol is also called Birch Sugar on labels.

Grapes and Raisins – These sugar-loaded people snacks can impact kidneys in dogs and cats and even cause the kidneys to shut down.

Unbaked dough - Stomach acts as a warm oven, resulting in potential bloat and alcohol poisoning due to release of CO₂ and ethanol. Do NOT induce vomiting at home - transport immediately to the vet clinic.

Marijuana - thc can cause vomit, elevated heart rate and seizures. Given to chemo patients to alleviate nausea. DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING! Vet team will pump stomach and give activated charcoal.

Surprising dangers:

Snack bags: Cause suffocation as the bag tightens when a pet inhales. Store snacks in plastic containers with lids or cut all bags twice before discarding.

Small craft items or Lego pieces: Cause choking. Watch out for needles and threads as well as glue and liquid potpourri.

Dangerous cleaners:

Household cleaners containing ammonia and bleach: Popular brands like Pine-Sol, Scrubbing Bubbles, Formula 409 kill the coronavirus, but can cause respiratory issues, dizzy, vomit, damage to mucus membranes in pets.

Pet-safe options: Better Life, Bio Kleen and Seventh Generation. Do not give pets access to surfaces cleaned with ammonia and bleach until they are completely dried.