



Lucky Glider Rescue & Sanctuary *Community Outreach for Sugar Gliders*

A 501(c)3 non-profit animal rescue

www.LuckyGlider.org

American Animal Hospital Association's Healthypet.com website

http://www.healthypet.com/PetCare/PetCareArticle.aspx?art_key=655a2b98-fe3f-4162-b9e4-af262ec76c7c



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Prevent Poisonings

Have you taken inventory of your medicine cabinets lately? Are you properly storing lawn and garden pesticide containers? When you tidy up around the house, do you put food, liquor and tobacco products safely out of harm's way? These precautions are second nature to households with children, but homes with animals must be just as secure.

Aspirin and other pain relievers are in almost every home, and these poisonings can be severe. When aspirin is prescribed for animals, the dosage must be strictly followed. Too much aspirin can lead to anemia and bleeding stomach ulcers. Ibuprofen and naproxen will cause painful gastrointestinal problems. One 200mg ibuprofen tablet is toxic to a small dog.

Never give acetaminophen to a cat or dog. The drug affects cats' oxygen in the blood and it produces severe depression. It also produces abdominal pain in dogs. If not quickly eliminated from the body, just two extra-strength tablets in 24 hours will most likely kill a small pet. Clinical signs in cats develop within one or two hours and include excessive salivation, paw and facial swelling, depression, and ash-gray gums. In dogs watch for anorexia, vomiting, depression, and abdominal pain. High doses are usually fatal.

There are neurological poisons found in lawn and garden pesticides, insecticidal aerosols, dips and shampoos products. Signs of toxicity include apprehension, excessive salivation, urination, defecation, vomiting and diarrhea, tremors, seizures, hyper-excitability or depression and pinpoint pupils. If an animal has absorbed enough of any neurological toxin, sudden death may be the only sign.

Coumarins, most recognizable as D-Con, a rat and mouse poison, affect the ability of the blood to clot. Mice that consume the poisoned grain essentially bleed to death. Your pets will be affected the same way, and the severity of the symptoms often depends on the amount ingested. Cats that eat poisoned mice can also become ill if the levels of poison are high enough. If you find an empty box of rat poison bring your pet into the veterinarian immediately. Tell them about the recent exposure so that they can implement the proper monitoring protocols. Additionally, if you see labored breathing, anorexia, nosebleeds, bloody urine or feces and pinpoint hemorrhages on the gums, take your pet to the veterinarian immediately.

Garbage is not often regarded as poisonous. However, toxins are produced by bacteria fermenting the garbage. Rapid and severe signs include vomiting, bloody diarrhea, painful abdominal distention, shivering, shock, and collapse.

How should pets be protected from these poisons? Some very simple rules to follow are:

- Properly dispose of and store all pesticide containers up and out of sight of your pets. Make sure the lids are tight and the containers are undamaged.
- Use cords or locking lids for garbage cans. Put them in a heavy frame to prevent knock-down.
- Keep pets off lawns sprayed with chemicals. Consult with the lawn care company for proper information on drying time and compounds used. Wash pets' feet with mild soap and water if exposed.
- Keep your pets out of vegetable and flower gardens.
- Encase compost piles or use commercially made containers.
- Never assume that a human drug is applicable to an animal unless a *veterinarian* instructs you to use it.

What is poisonous?

Here is a quick reference guide to the more common house and garden plants and foods that are toxic to most all animals and children. If you have these plants or foods, you need not dispose of them-just keep them away from pets and children. (* substances are especially dangerous and can be fatal).

Cardiovascular Toxins

- Avocado (leaves, seeds, stem, fruit, skin) in birds and pocket pets
- Azalea (entire rhododendron family)
- Autumn crocus (Colchicum autumnale)
- Bleeding heart
- Castor bean
- Foxglove (Digitalis)
- Hyacinth bulbs
- Hydrangea
- Japanese pieris
- Kalanchoe
- Lily-of-the-valley
- Milkweed
- Mistletoe berries
- Mountain laurel Oleander
- Rosary Pea
- Tobacco Products
- Yew

Gastrointestinal Toxins

- Avocado (leaves, seeds, stem, fruit, skin) in dogs
- Amaryllis bulb
- Azalea (entire rhododendron family)
- Autumn crocus (Colchicum autumnale)
- Bird of Paradise
- Bittersweet Boxwood
- Buckeye Bulbs (most kinds)
- Buttercup (Ranunculus)
- Caladium
- Castor bean
- Iris corms
- Lily (bulbs of most species)
- Macadamia nuts
- Mistletoe berries
- Narcissus, daffodil (Narcissus)
- Chocolate
- Chrysanthemum (a natural source of pyrethrins)
- Clematis Crocus bulb
- Croton (Codiaeum species)
- Cyclamen bulb Dumb cane (Dieffenbachia)
- Eggplant
- Elephant's ear
- English ivy (All Hedera species of ivy)
- Hyacinth bulbs
- Holly berries
- Onions
- Pencil cactus/plant Potato (leaves and stem)
- Rosary Pea
- Spurge (Euphorbia species)
- Tomatoes (leaves and stem)

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Respiratory Toxin

- Chinese sacred or heavenly bamboo
- English ivy

Neurological Toxins

- Alcohol (all beverages, ethanol, methanol, isopropyl)
- Amaryllis bulb
- Azalea (entire rhododendron family)
- Bleeding heart
- Buckeye Caffeine Castor bean
- Chocolate
- Choke cherry, unripe berries
- Chrysanthemum (natural source of pyrethrins)
- Crocus bulb Delphinium, larkspur, monkshood
- Eggplant
- Jimson weed
- Lupine species
- Macadamia nuts
- Marijuana (Cannabis)
- Morning glory
- Moldy foods
- Tobacco products
- Potato (leaves and stem)
- Tomatoes (leaves and stem)

Kidney/Organ Failure Toxins

- Amanita mushrooms
- Anthurium
- Asiatic lily
- Begonia
- Calla lily
- Castor beans
- Day lily
- Elephant's ear
- Easter lily
- Grapes/raisins
- Jack-in-the-pulpit
- Lantana
- Oak
- Rhubarb leaves
- Scheffelera
- Shamrock
- Star-gazer Lilly

Toxins that affect the blood

- Onions
- Garlic

If you suspect your animal may have ingested any of the substances on this list or if your pet shows any abnormal behavior (vomiting, diarrhea, staggering, etc), you should contact your veterinarian immediately. Take a sample of the suspected toxin and its packaging with you to the veterinarian.

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<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?c=2+1659&aid=1030>

Some foods which are edible for humans, and even other species of animals, can pose hazards for dogs because of their different metabolism. Some may cause only mild digestive upsets, whereas, others can cause severe illness, and even death. The following common food items should not be fed (intentionally or unintentionally) to dogs. This list is, of course, incomplete because we cannot possibly list everything your dog should not eat.

| Items to avoid | Reasons to avoid |
|---|--|
| Alcoholic beverages | Can cause intoxication, <i>coma</i> , and death. |
| Avocado | The leaves, seeds, fruit, and bark contain persin, which can cause vomiting and diarrhea. |
| Bones from fish, poultry, or other meat sources | Can cause obstruction or laceration of the digestive system. |
| Cat food | Generally too high in protein and fats. |
| Chocolate, coffee, tea, and other caffeine | Contain caffeine, theobromine, or theophylline, which can cause vomiting and diarrhea and be toxic to the heart and nervous systems. |
| Citrus oil extracts | Can cause vomiting. |
| Fat trimmings | Can cause pancreatitis . |
| Fish (raw, canned or cooked) | If fed exclusively or in high amounts can result in a thiamine (a B vitamin) deficiency leading to loss of appetite, seizures, and in severe cases, death. |
| Grapes, raisins and currants | Contain an unknown toxin, which can damage the kidneys. There have been no problems associated with grape seed extract. |
| Hops | Unknown compound causes panting, increased heart rate, elevated temperature, seizures, and death. |
| Human vitamin supplements containing iron | Can damage the lining of the digestive system and be toxic to the other organs including the liver and kidneys. |
| Macadamia nuts | Contain an unknown toxin, which can affect the digestive and nervous systems and muscle. |
| Marijuana | Can depress the nervous system, cause vomiting, and changes in the heart rate. |
| Milk and other dairy products | Some adult dogs and cats may develop diarrhea if given large amounts of dairy products. |
| Moldy or spoiled food, garbage | Can contain multiple toxins causing vomiting and diarrhea and can also affect other organs. |
| Mushrooms | Can contain toxins, which may affect multiple systems in the body, cause shock, and result in death. |
| Onions and garlic (raw, cooked, or powder) | Contain sulfoxides and disulfides, which can damage red blood cells and cause <i>anemia</i> . Cats are more susceptible than dogs. Garlic is less toxic than onions. |

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| Persimmons | Seeds can cause intestinal obstruction and enteritis . |
| Pits from peaches and plums | Can cause obstruction of the digestive tract. |
| Raw eggs | Contain an enzyme called avidin, which decreases the absorption of biotin (a B vitamin) . This can lead to skin and hair coat problems. Raw eggs may also contain <i>Salmonella</i> . |
| Raw meat | May contain bacteria such as <i>Salmonella</i> and <i>E. coli</i> , which can cause vomiting and diarrhea. |
| Rhubarb leaves | Contain oxalates, which can affect the digestive, nervous, and urinary systems. |
| Salt | If eaten in large quantities it may lead to <i>electrolyte</i> imbalances. |
| String | Can become trapped in the digestive system; called a "string foreign body." |
| Sugary foods | Can lead to obesity , dental problems, and possibly diabetes mellitus . |
| Table scraps (in large amounts) | Table scraps are not nutritionally balanced. They should never be more than 10% of the diet. Fat should be trimmed from meat; bones should not be fed. |
| Tobacco | Contains nicotine, which affects the digestive and nervous systems. Can result in rapid heart beat, collapse, coma, and death. |
| Yeast dough | Can expand and produce gas in the digestive system, causing pain and possible rupture of the stomach or intestines. |
| Xylitol (artificial sweetener) | Can cause very low blood sugar (hypoglycemia), which can result in vomiting, weakness and collapse. In high doses can cause liver failure. |



<http://aspcbehavior.org/articles/71/Foods-That-Are-Hazardous-to-Dogs-.aspx>

Foods That Are Hazardous to Dogs

Most dogs love food, and they're especially attracted to what they see us eating. While sharing the occasional tidbit with your dog is fine, it's important to be aware that some foods can be very dangerous to dogs. Take caution to make sure your dog never gets access to the foods below. Even if you don't give him table scraps, your dog might eat something that's hazardous to his health if he raids kitchen counters, cupboards and trash cans. For advice on teaching your dog not to steal food, please see our article, [Counter Surfing and Garbage Raiding](#).

Avocado

Avocados are toxic to a number of animals, including horses, rabbits, fish and mice. The toxic effects are due to the compound persin, an oil-soluble toxin found in specialized cells (idioblasts) within the avocado fruit, as well as in its skin. In some animals, persin causes damage to the heart muscle cells, leading to heart failure. In other species, it causes an inflammation of the mammary glands.

The toxicity of avocado to dogs is under question. Although one case report indicated that two dogs developed fatal heart failure after ingesting a "large amount" of avocados, most dogs who eat avocado suffer no serious injury. However, until the susceptibility of dogs to persin is further investigated, it's safest to avoid feeding avocado to your dog. In addition to the possibility he'll have a bad reaction to the fruit itself, your dog might swallow the pit, which could result in blockage within his digestive tract—and that might require surgery.

Bread Dough

Raw bread dough made with live yeast can be hazardous if ingested by dogs. When raw dough is swallowed, the warm, moist environment of the stomach provides an ideal environment for the yeast to multiply, resulting in an expanding mass of dough in the stomach. Expansion of the stomach may be severe enough to decrease blood flow to the stomach wall, resulting in the death of tissue. Additionally, the expanding stomach may press on the diaphragm, resulting in breathing difficulty. Perhaps more importantly, as the yeast multiplies, it produces alcohols that can be absorbed, resulting in alcohol intoxication. Affected dogs may have distended abdomens and show signs such as a lack of coordination, disorientation, stupor and vomiting (or attempts to vomit). In extreme cases, coma or seizures may occur and could lead to death from alcohol intoxication. Dogs showing mild signs should be closely monitored, and dogs with severe abdominal distention or dogs who are so inebriated that they can't stand up should be monitored by a veterinarian until they recover.

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Chocolate

Chocolate intoxication is most commonly seen around certain holidays—like Easter, Christmas, Halloween and Valentine’s Day—but it can happen any time dogs have access to products that contain chocolate, such as chocolate candy, cookies, brownies, chocolate baking goods, cocoa powder and cocoa shell-based mulches. The compounds in chocolate that cause toxicosis are caffeine and theobromine, which belong to a group of chemicals called methylxanthines. The rule of thumb with chocolate is “the darker it is, the more dangerous it is.” White chocolate has very few methylxanthines and is of low toxicity. Dark baker’s chocolate has very high levels of methylxanthines, and plain, dry unsweetened cocoa powder contains the most concentrated levels of methylxanthines. Depending on the type and amount of chocolate ingested, the signs seen can range from vomiting, increased thirst, abdominal discomfort and restlessness to severe agitation, muscle tremors, irregular heart rhythm, high body temperature, seizures and death. Dogs showing more than mild restlessness should be seen by a veterinarian immediately.

Ethanol (Also Known as Ethyl Alcohol, Grain Alcohol or Drinking Alcohol)

Dogs are far more sensitive to ethanol than humans are. Even ingesting a small amount of a product containing alcohol can cause significant intoxication. Dogs may be exposed to alcohol through drinking alcoholic drinks, such as beer, wine or mixed drinks (those with milk, like White Russians and “fortified” egg nog, are especially appealing to dogs), alcohol-containing elixirs and syrups, and raw yeast bread dough (please see the above section on bread dough). Alcohol intoxication commonly causes vomiting, loss of coordination, disorientation and stupor. In severe cases, coma, seizures and death may occur. Dogs showing mild signs of alcohol intoxication should be closely monitored, and dogs who are so inebriated that they can’t stand up should be monitored by a veterinarian until they recover.

Grapes and Raisins

Grapes and raisins have recently been associated with the development of kidney failure in dogs. At this time, the exact cause of the kidney failure isn’t clear, nor is it clear why some dogs can eat these fruits without harm, while others develop life-threatening problems after eating even a few grapes or raisins. Some dogs eat these fruits and experience no ill effects—but then eat them later on and become very ill. Until the cause of the toxicosis is better identified, the safest course of action is to avoid feeding grapes or raisins to your dog. Dogs experiencing grape or raisin toxicosis usually develop vomiting, lethargy or diarrhea within 12 hours of ingestion. As signs progress, dogs become increasingly lethargic and dehydrated, refuse to eat and may show a transient increase in urination followed by decreased or absent urination in later stages. Death due to kidney failure may occur within three to four days, or long-term kidney disease may persist in dogs who survive the acute intoxication. Successful treatment requires prompt veterinary treatment to maintain good urine flow.

Hops

Cultivated hops used for brewing beer have been associated with potentially life-threatening signs in dogs who have ingested them. Both fresh and spent (cooked) hops have been implicated in poisoning dogs. Affected dogs develop an uncontrollably high body temperature (often greater than 108 degrees Fahrenheit), which results in damage to and failure of multiple organ systems. Dogs poisoned by hops become restless, pant excessively, and may have muscle tremors and seizures. Prompt veterinary intervention is necessary to prevent death in these dogs.

Macadamia Nuts

Although macadamia nut toxicosis is unlikely to be fatal in dogs, it can cause very uncomfortable symptoms that may persist for up to 48 hours. Affected dogs develop weakness in their rear legs, appear to be in pain, may have tremors and may develop a low grade fever. Fortunately, these signs will gradually subside over 48 hours, but dogs experiencing more than mild symptoms can benefit from veterinary care, which may include intravenous fluid therapy and pain control.

Moldy Foods

A wide variety of molds grow on food. Some produce toxins called tremorgenic mycotoxins, which can cause serious or even life-threatening problems if ingested by dogs. Unfortunately, it's not possible to determine whether a particular mold is producing tremorgenic mycotoxins, so the safest rule of thumb is to avoid feeding dogs moldy food. In other words, if you wouldn't eat it, neither should your dog. Promptly remove any trash or moldy debris (road-kill, fallen walnuts or fruit, etc.) from your dog's environment to prevent him from eating it. The signs of tremorgenic mycotoxin poisoning generally begin as fine muscle tremors that progress to very coarse total-body tremors and, finally, convulsions that can lead to death in severe cases. Left untreated, these tremors can last for several weeks. Fortunately, they usually respond well to appropriate veterinary treatment.

Onions and Garlic

All close members of the onion family (shallots, onions, garlic, scallions, etc.) contain compounds that can damage dogs' red blood cells if ingested in sufficient quantities. A rule of thumb is "the stronger it is, the more toxic it is." Garlic tends to be more toxic than onions, on an ounce-for-ounce basis. While it's uncommon for dogs to eat enough raw onions and garlic to cause serious problems, exposure to concentrated forms of onion or garlic, such as dehydrated onions, onion soup mix or garlic powder, may put dogs at risk of toxicosis. The damage to the red blood cells caused by onions and garlic generally doesn't become apparent until three to five days after a dog eats these vegetables. Affected dogs may seem weak or reluctant to move, or they may appear to tire easily after mild exercise. Their urine may be orange-tinged to dark red in color. These dogs should be examined by a veterinarian immediately. In severe cases, blood transfusions may be needed.

Xylitol

Xylitol is a non-caloric sweetener that is widely used in sugar-free gum, as well as in sugar-free baked products. In humans, xylitol does not affect blood sugar levels, but in dogs, ingestion of xylitol can lead to a rapid and severe drop in blood sugar levels. Dogs may develop disorientation and seizures within 30 minutes of ingesting xylitol-containing products, or signs may be delayed for several hours. Some dogs who ingest large amounts of xylitol develop liver failure, which can be fatal. All dogs ingesting xylitol-containing products should be examined by a veterinarian immediately.