

Puppy Hazards

Congratulations on your new family member! Preparing your home for the arrival of a new puppy is important for the safety of your pet as well as your family. Remember this new family member is only a few inches off the ground, so when considering if an area is safe, look at the world from that perspective. Here are some things to think about when puppy proofing your home:

Physical hazards:

Furniture: It is easy to fall off chairs and couches or to be pinned under a recliner or rocking chair; pets should always be supervised while on furniture

Limit exposure to electrical wires, as they can be chewed on and pose a risk of electrocution

Tie up cords for blinds: they can get wrapped around limbs, neck, and tail and can cause trauma

Stairs: are easy to fall down, or trip other family members

Any standing water, such as swimming pools or toilet bowls can create a risk for drowning. Always closely monitor pets when near swimming pools and close toilet lids

Ingestion hazards: Puppies put everything and anything in their mouths, which can create an endless list of household items. Liquids, small items and objects with removable pieces are the biggest threat. Listed below are common items that veterinarians see pets present with: Items out of a trash can (which includes the bathroom)

Clothes (socks, undergarments, nylon or pantyhose)

Fish hooks, fishing equipment, needles, coins, office supplies, rubber bands, hair ties

Kids toys, especially stuffed animals

Pet toys - not all toys are safe for every pet!

Litter boxes: cat feces will make your puppy ill as well as run the risk of contracting intestinal parasites

Chemicals:

– Household/garage: cleaners, toilet bowl sanitizers, paints, varnishes, drain openers, batteries, car anti-freeze (ethylene glycol will cause death even if a small amount is ingested)

– Outdoors: herbicides, pool water/chemicals, certain mulches, and lawn fertilizers

Plants!! Please identify all plants inside and outside and talk to your veterinarian about whether your plants may be toxic to your pets.

Cigarettes (including the butts)

Table scraps:

– chocolate, grapes and raisins are examples of toxic food for pets; some peanut butter contains deadly artificial sweetener!!

– any human food could lead to vomiting, diarrhea or even a more serious gastrointestinal problem like pancreatitis

Medications:

– Always ask your veterinarian before giving your pet any medications that you may have at home.

– Child proof containers can easily be chewed through

– Vitamins and supplements in excess can be toxic - some nutrition products made for humans can contain deadly artificial sweetener!!

Insect bites/stings

Ingesting rats or snails that were poisoned with rat or snail bait

Candles

Holidays come with their own hazards: tinsel, ornaments, tree water, climbing trees, decorations, and extra candy around the home.

If your pet does get into something that is potentially poisonous it is very important that your pet is treated by a veterinarian as soon as possible. Call your veterinarian or poison control if you suspect your pet may have ingested an abnormal substance.

Signs to look for: Decreased appetite, increased water consumption, excessive salivation, vomiting, diarrhea, skin redness, seizures, limping, crying, or any other sign that your pet is not acting like themselves.

You will need to provide specific information to your veterinarian if you think that your pet has gotten into something poisonous:

- Any packaging that lists active and inactive ingredients in the suspected products
- When the incident occurred
- How much of the item your pet could have gotten into

ASPC 24-hour Animal Poison Control Center 888.426.4435

Arizona Animal Hospital 480.686.8083

Nearest 24hr EMERGENCY VET CLINIC _____