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COMMON PET HAZARDS

Although we cannot mention every toxin and hazard, we would like to be sure you are aware of a few of the most serious and common hazards.

1. **BUFO TOADS**-- Pet owners who are new to Florida may not be familiar with these toads. Dogs love to chase them but these toads have a toxin in their saliva which is secreted onto their skin. If the dog mouths the toad, they will absorb this toxin. Symptoms may include weakness, seizure, elevated body temperature and even death. DO NOT let your dogs come in contact with these toads. If you see your dog playing with one, the best treatment is to rinse out their mouth then bring immediately to the veterinarian. Small dogs are at highest risk for serious problems.
2. **HUMAN MEDICINES**— The most common toxicities reported to pet poison control are pets ingesting human medicines intentionally or accidentally. Never give human pain medicines or other medicines to a pet without discussing this with your vet. Even 1 baby Tylenol can kill a cat. Likewise be sure your medicines are safely stored so your pet can't accidentally ingest them. ALSO, never use flea/tick prevention intended for dogs on a cat unless your vet has authorized it.
3. **LILIES**-Easter Lilies, tiger lilies, day lilies and others are HIGHLY TOXIC to cats. Even one leaf can cause fatal kidney failure in a cat. We recommend that you never bring lilies into your home if you have cats. If you have seen your cat ingest a lily (all parts of the plant are toxic) bring your pet IMMEDIATELY to the vet—hours can make a difference.
4. **BLOAT**—Bloat (Gastric dilatation and volvulus) is a serious hazard that can occur in any dog. However, it is most prevalent in large and deep-chested dogs (Great Danes, St Bernard, Weimaraners, Akitas, etc). Symptoms are a dog that is highly nauseous, restless, retching but not bringing anything up. Although you may see distension of the stomach just behind the rib cage, it may not be obvious. Because this condition can cut off the blood supply to the stomach it is often fatal and time is critical. If you suspect bloat, bring your dog immediately in for evaluation.
5. **BREAD DOUGH**—Bread left out to rise can be tempting to pets. If they ingest the dough, their body heat accelerates fermentation of the yeast and alcohol is released. In addition to alcohol toxicity which can be fatal, the enlarging mass in the stomach can cause a bloat or obstruction in the stomach.
6. **GRAPES AND RAISINS**— Some dogs are highly susceptible to toxicity from this fruit and can get kidney failure with just a few grapes or raisins.
7. **XYLITOL**— Xylitol is used in many gums, candies and foods as an artificial sweetener. In dogs, however, even a small amount of xylitol can cause a life threatening hypoglycemic crisis and potentially fatal liver damage.

*****IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY** you can always check with the Pet Poison Helpline by calling 800-213-6680.