



Keep Your Pet in the Prevention Zone

If you have a pet, it's likely you consider them to be a member of the family. We protect our human loved ones from danger, so it makes sense that we want to prevent any harm coming to our animal loved ones as well. Take a look around your home to make sure that you are taking the right steps to help protect your precious pets.

Poisons – For cats and dogs, rodent poisons and insecticides are the most common source of poisoning. But there are many others to keep in mind, including (but not limited to):

- Antifreeze with ethylene glycol – this has a sweet taste and attracts animals, but just a little can be deadly! Try one with propylene glycol (safe in smaller amounts).
- Garden chemicals – fertilizers, plant food and even some mulch can be deadly to your pet if they eat it
- Human medications – Many can be toxic to your pet, including (but not limited to) acetaminophen and ibuprofen, cold medicine and even vitamins
- Certain plants – Lilies, mistletoe, azalea and hibiscus are just a few of the plants that can be harmful to your pet. For a more complete list, visit the [Humane Society list](#).

Choking Hazards – You've seen your dog wolf down a hotdog in one bite but there are many common household items (a lot smaller than a hotdog) that could pose serious problems (even death) if eaten by your pet.

- Small toys (whether for humans or animals) with parts that can come off and become lodged in a throat
- Rawhide chews should be used with supervision
- Yarn, rubber bands and other stringy items are easy for your pet to swallow but could cause intestinal blockage, choking or strangulation

Around the House

- Birds are particularly sensitive to many household fumes, such as aerosol sprays, self-cleaning ovens and certain types of overheated cookware
- Open toilets – If they're thirsty, they'll drink from it. If you use household chemicals for cleaning, the result can be a poisoned pet. Remember to keep the lids shut (and locked if needed).
- Open windows – Cats have poor depth perception and can fall from an upper floor window, causing injury or even death. Open windows are also an easy escape route for a loose bird.

Prevention Tips

- When using medication, lean over a sink or close your pet out of the room for a moment until you are done. That way, a dropped pill or an unattended tube of ointment won't end up being ingested by your pet.
- Keep an eye out! When you're gardening, in the car, having guests over, cleaning house or doing any other activity, you keep tabs on your kids so it makes sense to stay vigilant with your pets too!
- Get a pet's-eye view of your home and think like your dog/cat/bird. See if you can spot temptations or risks to your pet at that level that you might not spot at your own.
- Keep the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center hotline number near your phone (888-426-4435). It is available on a fee basis. Also keep your vet's phone numbers (regular and after hours) handy.

There are so many more steps you can take to help prevent harm to your pet. Consider resources like the [Humane Society](#) or [ASPCA](#) websites for more information.

Visit [Allstate Be Aware and Prepare](#) and the [Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety](#) for more, helpful information.