

Protecting Our Pets

Our pets are precious to us, and their safety should always be a priority. Follow these six safety tips to avoid dangers in or around the home.



Prevent heartworm

Heartworms are deadly parasites that can infect dogs, cats, and ferrets. While dogs can be treated with early detection, a heartworm diagnosis is fatal for cats and ferrets. There are 11 mosquito species in Florida that are known to carry the parasite.

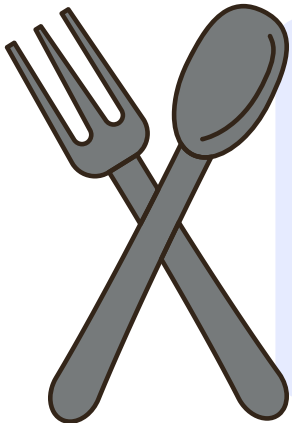
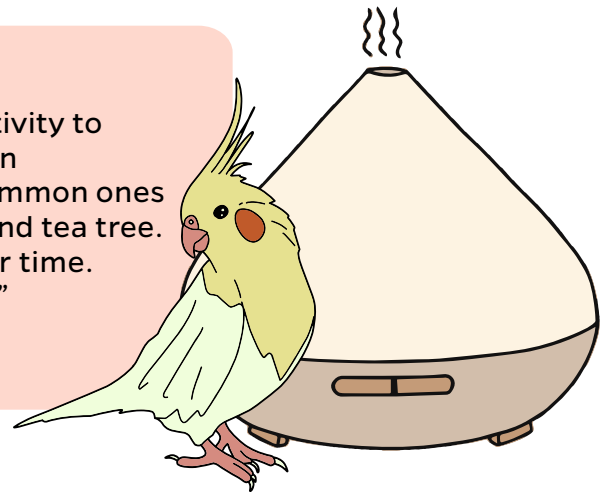
Preventing heartworms is key to a long and healthy life for your pet. Talk to your veterinarian about options for preventative medicine.

Learn more at tiny.cc/ahs_heartworm.

Use pet-safe scents

Birds, dogs, cats, and small mammals have a higher sensitivity to smells and can react negatively to the essential oils used in aromatherapy. Many oils have been noted as toxic, but common ones include eucalyptus, cinnamon, citrus, pine, peppermint, and tea tree. Certain plug-in air fresheners can also make pets sick over time. Make sure the product you buy is labeled as “pet-friendly.”

Learn more at tiny.cc/bcspca_oils and tiny.cc/epa_voc.



Share food with care

Make sure the foods you give your pet don't harm them in the long run. Avoid giving them any food high in salt or fat, like bacon. If you plan to share your cooked food, go easy on seasonings, butter, oil, or lard. And keep in mind that many foods are toxic and should not be shared at all. These include, but are not limited to: grapes, garlic, macadamia nuts, onions, chocolate, and avocado.

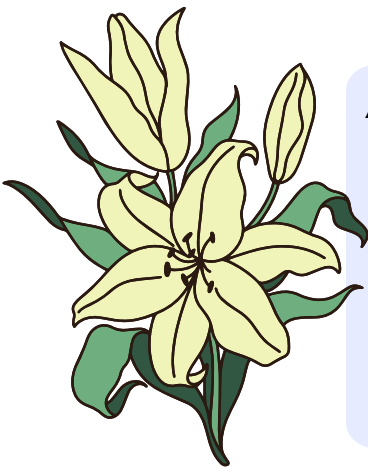
Learn more at tiny.cc/fda_petdangers.

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Stay away from xylitol

Peanut butter is a common treat for dogs, and, generally, not an issue in small amounts. But, some peanut butters (along with other treats) contain xylitol, a natural sweetener that can lead to potentially deadly hypoglycemia in dogs. Be sure to check the ingredients on the nutrition label before sharing any treat with your dog.

Learn more at tiny.cc/fda_xylitol.



Avoid toxic plants

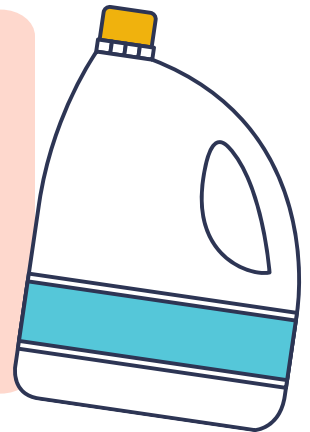
While toxic plants pose no threat when left alone in the home or landscape, curious cats and dogs might try to eat them. Common plants that might endanger pets include: aloe vera, amaryllis, castor bean, chrysanthemum, golden pothos, hibiscus, kalanchoe, lily, oleander, philodendron, poinsettia, sago palm, and schefflera.

Learn more at tiny.cc/fda_petdangers.

Store harmful chemicals

Pets face hazards from many common household products, like laundry detergent, dryer sheets, ammonia, bleach, some cleaning products, certain medications, batteries, paint, and antifreeze. Pesticides (like rodent baits), fertilizers, and cocoa mulch found outside the home also pose a threat. Store any of these substances securely away from your pets or, when applicable, prevent exposure.

Learn more at tiny.cc/fda_petdangers.



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