



Poison Prevention Week 2011, March 20-26

In 2010, the [ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center](#) fielded over 167,000 phone calls about pets exposed to possibly dangerous substances. Here is the Top 10 list of the most common poisons reported:



1. **Human Medications:** Over-the-counter medications such as ibuprofen and acetaminophen (Tylenol®), as well as anti-depressants and ADHD medications made up almost 25% of incoming calls.
2. **Insecticides:** The most serious poisonings occurred when products not labeled for use on cats were applied to them. Always follow label directions.
3. **Rodenticides:** Baits used to kill mice and rats are mostly grain based. Not only does this attract rodents, but it attracts dogs and cats. Several types of rodenticides can cause seizures, internal bleeding or kidney failure.
4. **People Food:** Grapes and raisins can cause kidney failure, while onions and garlic can cause anemia if enough is ingested.
5. **Veterinary Medications:** Many pet medications are flavored for ease of giving. Unfortunately, that means that animals may ingest an entire bottle.
6. **Chocolate:** Chocolate contains methylxanthines, which act as a stimulant in pets. The darker the chocolate, the more methylxanthines which can cause agitation, vomiting, diarrhea, high heart rate, muscle tremors, seizures and death.
7. **Household Toxins:** Cleaning supplies such as bleach, acids, alkalis and detergents can cause corrosive injury to the mouth and stomach. Household items such as batteries and liquid potpourri can cause similar problems.
8. **Plants:** House and outdoor plants can be ingested by pets. Lilies can cause life-threatening kidney failure in cats, while sago palms can cause liver failure.
9. **Herbicides:** Many herbicides have a salty taste that pets like. Always follow label directions and keep pets off of treated areas until dry.
10. **Outdoor Toxins:** Antifreeze, fertilizers and ice melts are all substances that animals can find in garages or outdoors. Keep these items in securely locked sheds or on high shelves.

If you suspect that your pet has consumed something toxic, see your veterinarian immediately. For a complete list of poisonous (and non-poisonous) plants [\[Click Here\]](#).