



## **Pets and Poison**

There are many household items that are poisonous to pets if consumed. They range from human foods, such as chocolate and onions to chemicals, such as antifreeze, which has a pleasing smell and taste but is extremely toxic. Please click the article below for a more extensive list of toxic foods.

However, it's not just foods and chemicals that are the problem. A recent rising threat comes from prescription antidepressant medications. These drugs are especially harmful since their effects after being ingested by the animal develop quickly. Veterinary care needs to be sought immediately, since the symptoms often appear within 30 minutes. Most incidents involve pets that were accidentally exposed to the drug.

Please ensure that drug bottles are out of your pet's reach. On some occasions, owners have medicated their pets with their own prescription drugs in an effort to help them. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) strongly advises against offering pets any drug without first discussing it with a veterinarian. Medications that are now being prescribed to treat common pet problems such as anxiety in dogs and spraying in cats, must be carefully administered, as they can also be harmful if an overdose is given.

### ***The following drugs are the top causes of poisoning:***

- Tricyclic Antidepressants are commonly used to treat depression, schizophrenia, obsessive compulsive and other disorders in humans. More than 67 percent of antidepressant cases received by APCC involved these medications.
- Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors are typically used to treat anxiety, depression and other disorders in humans, as well as aggression and anxiety in dogs and urine spraying in cats.
- Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs) are commonly used for the treatment of depression, anxiety and phobias in humans, and cognitive dysfunction and adrenal gland disorders in companion canines.
- Depending on the dose involved, common effects include lethargy, vomiting and diarrhea. Agitation, abnormalities in blood pressure and heart rate, and coma are also possible. Learn about other common household items that could be dangerous to your pet in this valuable article from the ASPCA entitled "Top Ten Poison Prevention Tips."