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CHOCOLATE, DAFFODILS AND MANY COMMON HOUSEHOLD ITEMS CAN POISON PETS

Common household products can be dangerous and even deadly to pets. Thousands of cats and dogs needlessly suffer and many die each year by accidental ingestion of household poisons, including popular houseplants and common foods.

"Most pet owners simply do not know that small amounts of chocolate, onions, macadamia nuts and bread dough can be fatal if ingested by a dog," comments Dr. Steve Hansen, Senior Vice President of The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center. "Many cats are poisoned in the spring from plants including daffodils and lilies. A cat that eats an Easter lily will die unless it receives prompt medical attention," says Hansen. The ASPCA advises cat owners to pay special attention to the plants in their homes, since cats have the ability to jump onto tabletops and windowsills.

Other common houseplants such as philodendron, dieffenbachia, cyclamen, corn stalk plants, sago palms and bird of paradise all contain toxins and are dangerous if ingested by animals. The ASPCA offers the following guidelines to protect pets from poisonings:



Keep all drugs out of your pets' reach in closed cabinets. Painkillers, cold medicines, antidepressants, vitamins and diet pills can be lethal to animals, even in small doses.



Never give your pets medication unless you are directed to do so by a veterinarian. Human medicine is not for pets.



Always Read the Label before dispensing medication. Some flea products for dogs can be deadly if given to cats.



If you suspect that your pet has ingested something poisonous, seek medical attention immediately.



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609.788.4953

In an emergency, pet owners can call The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center, the nation's only animal poison control center staffed by veterinarians and veterinary toxicologists that operates 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week. For additional information about other potential poisons go to their web site: http://www.asPCA.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pro_apcc

To reach The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center call 1-888-426-4435 toll free (1-888-4ANI-HELP). The Center receives no state or federal funding, therefore it is necessary to charge a fee to maintain their expert veterinary staff 24 hours a day every day of the year.

If you think that your pet may have ingested a potentially poisonous substance, make the call that can make all the difference: A \$65 consultation fee may be applied to your credit card.

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