

Pet Safety Essentials

Microchips and tattoos

All pets should wear a collar with an ID tag at all times, but in case they come off, microchips and tattoos offer added security. Micro-chipping involves a safe, permanent miniature implant injected over the shoulder beneath the skin using a hypodermic needle; the chips can be read by scanners found increasingly at animal shelters and veterinarian offices. Tattoos are easy to spot.

For details, contact:

- AKC Companion Animal Retrieval Microchip System, 800-252-7894
- AVID Microchip, 800-336-2843
- National Dog Registry/Tattoos, 800-NDR-DOGS (800-637-3647)
- If your pet gets lost, contact the Missing Pet Network at www.missingpet.net

Basic Safety Tips

- Don't leave your dog unattended in a car - especially in hot weather. Even with the windows open, a car can heat up like an oven in minutes. Hundreds of animals die in cars each year.
- Make sure your dog always has free access to water - inside the house and out.
- Before you let your dog in a yard, make sure the fence is secure. And keep watch!
- Unattended dogs can eventually dig under or climb/jump over fences, and can get injured or disturb neighbors.
- Keep your pets off the grass if you've just applied weed killer. They may lick their paws and get ill.
- Avoid heatstroke: don't leave your dog outside for long periods on a hot day. Some breeds are particularly sensitive to heat. When outside, a dog must always have a shady shelter and access to water.
- Use sunscreen on dogs with extremely short hair (this is especially true for all-white dogs where you can see the pink skin underneath)
- Don't chain dogs up. Chains and ropes cause injuries, and a chained dog cannot protect himself from stray animals. Chaining creates frustration that leads to aggression and other behavioral problems.
- Antifreeze kills - and unfortunately its taste appeals to pets. Tightly close and store all containers away from pets, and watch for puddles when you're walking your dog.

- Do not transport your dog un-tethered in the back of a pickup truck. Hundreds of dogs die each year from falling out of trucks. Also, dogs get head and eye injuries from sticking heads out car windows.
- Shield electrical wires and plug outlets in your home.
- Store cleaning products high or behind latched doors. Equip cabinet doors with child-proof latches.
- Don't let pets drink from a toilet that has freshener in the tank or bowl. The chemicals are toxic.
- Even a small amount of chocolate can poison and kill your dog, and dogs can detect its scent through wrappings and paper. Keep it away from your dog.
- Unless prescribed by your vet, don't give human medications like aspirin to your dog.
- Identify and move toxic plants out of reach.

Poisonous Plants

According to the National Animal Poison Control Center and other sources, some toxic plants include:

Aloe Vera	Cycads	Kalanchoe (Panda Bear Plant)
Amaryllis	Cyclamen	Lily of the Valley & other lily plants
Apple seeds	Daffodil	Marijuana
Apricot pit	Dieffenbachia & Dumb cane	Mistletoe
Asparagus fern	Dracaena	Morning Glory
Avocado - fruit and pit	Dragon tree Easter Lily	Narcissus
Azalea	Elephant Ears	Peach (pits and wilting leaves)
Baby's breath	English Ivy	Philodendron (entire plant)
Bird of Paradise	Fiddle-leaf fig	Plumosa Fern
Bittersweet	Foxglove (Digitalis)	Poinsettia (low toxicity)
Boxwood	Geranium	Poison Ivy
Buckeye	Ivy - Branching, Devil's, English, German, Glacier,	Poison Oak
Caladium	Needlepoint	Primrose (Primula)
Calla Lily	Hibiscus	Rhododendron
Carnation	Holly	Sago Palm
Chinaberry Tree	Hurricane Plant	Schefflera
Chinese evergreen	Hyacinth bulbs	Taro Vine
Clematis	Hydrangea	Tomato Plant (all parts except ripe fruit)
Cordatum	Nightshade	Wisteria seeds
Corn plant	Oleander	Yew
Cornstalk Plant	Onion	
Croton	Indian Rubber Plant	
	Jerusalem Cherry	

Poisonous food

The following is a list of foods that your pet should avoid as they are all poisonous to some degree. **Call your vet or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center 888-426-4435 if you're concerned your dog has ingested any of the food on this list.**

- **Alcoholic Beverages:** Any type of alcohol can be poisonous to your pet and aside from intoxication, can cause a coma or even death.

- **Apple Seeds:** Can have varied effects on pets.
- **Apricot Pits:** Can cause respiratory difficulties such as breathing, coughing and sneezing.
- **Cherry Pits:** Can cause respiratory difficulties such as breathing, coughing and sneezing.
- **Candy containing the sweetener Xylitol:** Can cause liver damage and even death.
- **Chocolate:** Although pets should never have any type of chocolate, milk chocolate is not nearly as dangerous for animals as semi-sweet or unsweetened bakers chocolate. Chocolate poisoning can cause irregular heart rate and rhythm, restlessness, hyperactivity, diarrhea, vomiting, panting, muscle tremors, abdominal pain, bloody urine, increased body temperature, seizures, coma and possibly even death.
- **Coffee:** Can result in increased breathing and heart rate, restlessness and affects the central nervous system.
- **Grapes:** Large amounts of grapes can be poisonous to pets and can cause vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, abdominal pain, lack of appetite and kidney damage.
- **Hops:** May cause panting, elevated temperature, increased heart rate, seizures and possibly death.
- **Macadamia Nuts:** Can cause vomiting, lethargy, hyperthermia, abdominal pain, stiff joints, lameness and tremors.
- **Moldy Foods:** Can have varied effects on pets including vomiting and diarrhea.
- **Mushrooms:** Different types of mushrooms can have varied effects on pets such as, depression, diarrhea, nausea and vomiting, abdominal pain, tearing, hallucinations, defecation, liver failure, seizures, drooling, urination, kidney failure, heart damage, hyperactivity and in some cases, death.
- **Mustard Seeds:** Can have varied effects on pets.
- **Onions and Onion Powder:** Can cause gastrointestinal problems such as vomiting and diarrhea.
- **Peach Pits:** Can cause respiratory difficulties such as breathing, coughing and sneezing.
- **Potato Leaves and Stems:** Can cause problems with the digestive, nervous and urinary systems.
- **Raisins:** Large amounts of raisins can be poisonous to pets and can cause vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, abdominal pain, lack of appetite and kidney damage.
- **Rhubarb Leaves:** Can cause problems with the digestive, nervous and urinary systems.
- **Salt:** In large quantities can cause electrolyte imbalances.
- **Tea:** Can have varied effects in pets.
- **Tomato Leaves and Stems:** Can cause problems with the digestive, nervous and urinary systems.
- **Walnuts:** Can cause gastrointestinal problems such as vomiting and diarrhea, as well as respiratory issues such as sneezing, breathing and coughing.
- **Yeast Dough:** Can be dangerous as it will expand and result in gas, pain and possible rupture of the stomach or intestines.

Poison Hotline

- ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center 888-426-4435

Dog-Proofing

- **Fences.** Check carefully for gaps, loose boards or bent bottom edges. Fix problems immediately. Move any woodpiles away from the fence so your dog can't use them as a ladder. Can your dog jump, climb, or dig under the fence? Or break through the pickets? If there's a way to escape, a dog will find it - either to chase other animals, go after passers-by, or to look for company. So don't leave your dog in the yard unattended.
- **Electric/invisible fences.** Convenient - but risky. The shocks can be unhealthy. When the power fails, your dog may run off - subjecting the dog to injury, and subjecting you to a liability claim. Also, many dogs would rather be shocked than miss the chance to chase a squirrel (and they soon learn the shock stops after passing the barrier). Electric fences do not keep animal or human intruders out. Consult with a trainer who is knowledgeable about perimeter training if you decide to use an electric/invisible fence.
- **Gate latches.** Can someone enter your yard or release your dog? Can your dog open the latch?
- **Screen doors.** A dog can easily kick open or tear through screen doors.
- **Doggie doors.** Block the door when you are not at home or cannot supervise your dog. Remember that other critters, such as raccoons, can use a doggie door to get into food or trash.
- **Stairs.** Block open stairs/railings using baby or puppy gates.

Travel Tips

- Make sure your dog's flat collar is secure and that the ID tag is, too.
- Bring your dog's leash, food, bowls, toys, brush, flea comb, towels - and lots of paper towels.
- Pack a copy of medical records, including rabies certificate (make an extra copy for your glove box). This will help in case you board your dog during your trip.
- Make sure your dog receives a bordatella vaccine prior to boarding.
- Pack heartworm pills and any other medication, plus a first aid kit including tweezers to remove ticks.
- Pack lots of ice - a treat for the dog, plus it melts down into water.
- Cut back on food starting the evening before a long drive, and avoid feeding 2 to 3 hours before leaving town, to reduce the chances of your dog becoming car-sick.
- For the car ride, use a doggie seat belt or confine in a crate.
- Don't leave your dog alone in a car.
- Be careful about leaving your dog in a hotel room alone, since she may bark or howl. Sometimes it's best to use a local kennel or doggie daycare facility.
- Don't bring your dog to places unless you know dogs are allowed.
- If you're traveling across borders, obtain a health certificate in advance.

Books, Web Sites & Other Resources

- **The Culture Clash and Dogs Are From Neptune** - both by Jean Donaldson
- **Don't Shoot the Dog and Clicker Training for Dogs** - both by Karen Pryor
- **Aggression in Dogs** - by Brenda Aloff

- **The Dog Who Loved Too Much and Dogs Behaving Badly** - both by Dr. Nicholas Dodman
- **The Complete Idiot's Guide to Getting and Owning a Dog** - by Sheila Webster Boneham
- **Choosing and Caring for a Shelter Dog: A Complete Guide** - by Bob Christiansen

For young people

- **A Kid's Best Friend** - by Maya Ajmera and Alex Fisher
- **Dog Training for Kids** - by Carol Lea Benjamin (Ages 9-12)
- **Super Puppy: How to Raise the Best Dog You'll Ever Have!** - by Peter J. Vollmer (Ages 9-12)
- www.loveyourdog.com – A Kid's Guide to Dog Care
- www.dogfriendly.com - Travel tips and places to go with your dog