



## Pet Poisons From A To Z

by Dr. Mary Fuller

No one intends for it to happen: a purse is left on the floor and within minutes your dog is parading around with an empty prescription bottle or a chocolate wrapper in his mouth.

"We just don't realize how determined our pets are to eat the things they shouldn't," says Dr. Tina Wismer, D.V.M., medical director for the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center.

Of the 165,900 calls that the organization handled in 2011, most of them involved pets who would ingest human prescriptions. "Many children with ADHD don't want to take their medications, so they leave pills on their plates, where pets can get at them," Dr. Wismer says. "Even nonprescription medications, such as ibuprofen, can be a problem because many brands have a sweet coating, so it's like candy for dogs."

As part of National Poison Prevention Week, Vetstreet compiled an A to Z list of some common pet poisons that should be on your radar. This list is not all-inclusive, so for more information on these and many other toxins, check out the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center website and talk with your vet.

- Acetaminophen, which is found in Tylenol® and other medications, can cause liver damage in dogs. Cats are even more sensitive: ingestion of a single 325 mg. tablet by a 10-pound cat can cause anemia and even be fatal. *Toxicity ranking: moderate to severe.*

- Batteries can be toxic to both dogs and cats, leading to ulcers in the mouth, esophagus or stomach. *Toxicity ranking: moderate to severe.*

- Chocolate can cause seizures and death in dogs and cats. Darker chocolate, such as unsweetened baker's chocolate, is more toxic than milk or white chocolate. Even cocoa bean mulch, when eaten in large quantities, can be a problem. *Toxicity ranking: moderate to severe.*

- Detergents and fabric softener sheets can cause ulcers in the mouth, esophagus and stomach in dogs and cats. *Toxicity ranking: mild to moderate.*

- Ethylene glycol is found in antifreeze, windshield de-icing agents and motor oils. Dogs and cats are attracted to its sweet taste, but as little as a teaspoon in cats or a tablespoon in dogs can cause kidney failure. *Toxicity ranking: severe to fatal.*

- Fertilizers can contain poisonous amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, iron, zinc, herbicides and pesti-

cides. Keep dogs and cats away from treated lawns until they are dry. Check the product packaging, though, since some products must be rinsed into the lawn before it is safe to walk on. *Toxicity ranking: mild to moderate.*

- Grapes, raisins and currants, even grape juice, in small amounts can cause kidney failure in dogs. *Toxicity ranking: moderate to severe.*

- Household cleaners, such as bleach, drain cleaners, ammonia and toilet bowl cleaners, can cause gastrointestinal ulcers and other problems in dogs and cats. *Toxicity ranking: varies.*

- Insecticides in flea and tick products can cause problems if not used according to labels. Insecticides that are meant for dogs can cause severe toxicity in cats, leading to signs such as vomiting, seizures and difficulty breathing. Products intended for treating the yard or house should not be used on pets. *Toxicity ranking: mild to severe.*

- Jimson weed, also known as devil's trumpet, can cause restlessness, drunken walking and respiratory failure in dogs and cats. *Toxicity ranking: moderate.*

- Kerosene, gasoline and tiki torch fluids can cause drooling, drunken walking and difficulty breathing in dogs and cats. If these products contain antifreeze, they are even more problematic. *Toxicity ranking: moderate to severe (potentially life threatening).*

*("Pet Poisons" continued on the next page)*

Dear readers,

Sorry that this newsletter has been delayed. For your convenience, I am combining the February and the March newsletters into a single newsletter.

This newsletter is being sent out for FREE to Sheltie fanciers who requested more up-to-date information about Shelties and their activities. Past newsletters are posted on our secure website ([www.sheltie.com](http://www.sheltie.com)) under "The Telegram."

If you know of someone else who would like to begin receiving this e-mail newsletter, please send us his or her e-mail address. If you ever wish to stop receiving these free Sheltie newsletters and articles, let us know by sending an e-mail to [s.pacesetter@sheltie.com](mailto:s.pacesetter@sheltie.com).

Please send us (via e-mail) any timely articles which you think should be shared among other Sheltie folks. We accept Specialty show dates and contact information, along with timely announcements...such as symposiums and teaching events.





("Pet Poisons" continued from previous page)

• Lilies (Easter, day, tiger, Japanese and Asiatic varieties) can cause kidney failure in cats. Lilies of the valley can cause heart rhythm problems and death in dogs and cats. *Toxicity ranking: moderate to severe.*

• Mothballs, especially if they contain naphthalene, can be toxic to dogs and cats, resulting in vomiting, diarrhea, increased drinking and urination, and seizures. *Toxicity ranking: moderate to severe (potentially life threatening).*

• Nonprescription medication, such as ibuprofen, can lead to severe ulcers and anemia, as well as liver and kidney failure in pets. *Toxicity ranking: moderate to severe (potentially life threatening).*

• Onions, garlic, leeks and chives can be toxic in dogs and cats. When chewed or swallowed, these ingredients can cause anemia and gastrointestinal upset. *Toxicity ranking: mild to moderate.*

• Prescription medications, such as antidepressants and ADHD and cardiac drugs, are commonly ingested by pets when pills are dropped on the floor or left on counters. Even a small dose can cause problems. *Toxicity ranking: varies.*

• Queensland nuts, also known as macadamia nuts, can cause lethargy, vomiting and difficulty walking in dogs. *Toxicity ranking: mild to moderate.*

• Rodenticides, such as mouse and rat poisons, can contain a number of different toxins, which have different effects on dogs and cats. Several common ingredients, like warfarin and coumarin, can cause clotting problems and hemorrhaging. *Toxicity ranking: mild to severe.*

• Sago palms are one of a number of toxic plants for dogs and cats. Ingestion can lead to vomiting, diarrhea and seizures, as well as liver failure in dogs. *Toxicity ranking: severe.*

• Tulip bulbs can lead to mouth irritation, drooling, vomiting and diarrhea. *Toxicity ranking: mild to moderate.*

• Unbaked bread dough can expand in the stomach. If the stomach twists, cutting off the blood supply, emergency surgery is needed. The yeast in the dough can also produce alcohol, leading to seizures and respiratory failure. *Toxicity ranking: mild to severe.*

• Veterinary prescriptions, such as arthritis medications, are often meat-flavored, which can be enticing to dogs. This can result in stomach ulcers, liver or kidney failure. *Toxicity ranking: moderate to severe.*

• Windshield wiper fluid can contain methanol or ethylene glycol. Ingestion of methanol can cause low blood sugar and drunken walking in dogs and cats. *Toxicity ranking: mild to moderate.*

• Xylitol is a sugar-free sweetener commonly found in chewing gum, breath mints and toothpaste. In dogs, it can lead to dangerous drops in blood sugar and liver failure. *Toxicity ranking: mild to severe.*

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("Pet Poisons" cont.)

• Yard products, including snail and slug bait, herbicides and fertilizers, are never good for pets. Signs will vary by the ingredient. *Toxicity ranking: varies.*

• Zinc toxicity can happen when dogs and cats eat metal or coins. Ingestion of even a single zinc penny can be fatal. Zinc can cause anemia, as well as liver, kidney or heart failure. *Toxicity ranking: moderate to severe.*

### How to Safeguard Your Pet

So how can you prevent your pet from an accidental poisoning? Start by visiting the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center website to learn about other potential poisons, how to poison-proof your home and what to do if you suspect that your pet may have been poisoned.

It's also a good idea to post the organization's phone number (888-426-4435) on your refrigerator for easy reference in the event of an emergency. The call center is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

"To poison-proof your home, don't keep medications where pets can get at them," Dr. Wismer says. "Keep cleaning products behind doors, and take your medication in another room, behind a locked door."

While dogs can be notorious for refusing to take their own medications, Wismer adds, "we sometimes say that the surest way to pill a dog is to drop one on the floor." □





## How to "Curb" Car Sickness in Puppies and in Dogs

Much like humans, dogs and puppies can also experience a feeling of illness while on car trips. This car sickness can make pet travel, whether short or long, quite an ordeal for dogs and their families. Fortunately, there are things you can do to help your dog in the car.

The most common reasons for car sickness in puppies and dogs are:

- The ear structures used for balance aren't fully developed in puppies. This can cause motion sickness. Fortunately, many dogs will outgrow car sickness.

- Stress can also add to travel sickness. For example, if your dog has only been in the car to go to the vet, he may make himself sick from the worry and apprehension of seeing the vet.

- If your dog has been nauseous the first few times traveling in the car as a puppy, he may have conditioned himself to see car travel as a time when he will get sick.

You can look for some common signs of car sickness in your pet, such as:

- Inactivity
- Restlessness
- Excessive yawning
- Whining
- Hyper-salivation (drooling)
- Vomiting

Typically symptoms will go away shortly after the vehicle stops.

There are a number of treatment options available to help prevent car sickness for your puppy or dog. Physical comfort in the car, reconditioning, medication and holistic treatments can all help to make car traveling a lot easier on your dog.

1. Physical comfort in car: try these options to help make the car ride as physically comfortable as possible for your dog.

- Face your dog forward in moving vehicle. If your dog is facing forward he will see less movement. Looking out of the side windows causes objects to blur and that can cause or compound motion sickness.

- Avoid letting your pet travel in the farthest backseat because this is where there is the most motion.

- Opening the windows in the car a little bit may help reduce air pressure inside the vehicle and allow for better ventilation.

- Don't give your puppy or dog any food for a few hours before getting in the car.

- Try putting him in a travel crate. Sometimes, this helps to keep him from looking outside too much and helps to keep any sickness he may have in a confined space.

- Keep it cool in the vehicle. A hot, stuffy ride can make car sickness worse for your dog.

- Toys may help distract and entertain a high-strung dog.
- Taking frequent potty breaks may also help.
- Exercise before getting in the car to travel.

2. Reconditioning: sometimes reconditioning will help your dog to relax in the car. Reconditioning is needed if your dog associates

riding in the car with something bad, like getting sick or going to the vet. Reconditioning takes patience for both you and your dog.

Here are some tips to help recondition your dog:

- Try a different vehicle. He may associate your vehicle with unpleasant memories.

- Take short car trips to places your dog enjoys.

- Gradually build your dog's tolerance. Start by sitting in the car with your dog with the engine off. Do this over a few days. Then, when he seems comfortable, sit in the car with the car idling. After this, take a ride around the block. Now you can try a longer trip. By doing this slowly and over a period of time you are helping remove the stress of traveling from your dog.

- Use treats to make the car a fun place for your dog.

- Buy a special toy that they can only play with in the car.

3. Medication: there are times when medications are necessary to help your dog during pet travel. Some over-the-counter and prescribed medications are listed below.

- Anti-nausea drugs: reduce vomiting.

- Antihistamines: used to lessen motion sickness, reduce drooling and help them to be calm.

- Phenothiazine and related drugs: reduce vomiting and help to sedate.

Always discuss any medications with your veterinarian before using to make sure your dog is healthy, the dosage is correct, and that the medication won't harm your dog.

4. Holistic Approach: holistic treatments are another option for a dog parents to try. Some common holistic choices are listed below.

- Ginger can be used for nausea. Ginger snap cookies or ginger pills can be given at least 30 minutes before travel.

- Peppermint, chamomile and horehound naturally help calm the stomach of your pup.

- Massage helps to relax your pet before you travel.

Always discuss any holistic remedies with your veterinarian before using to make sure your dog is healthy, the dosage is correct, and that the treatment won't harm your dog.

Patience and training may help in preventing car sickness during pet travel. You may also need to stock up on certain medications or holistic remedies to help calm your dog if physical changes and reconditioning don't do the trick. Hopefully, with time and a little effort your dog will be able to ride safely and happily in your car!

### About TripsWithPets.com

MailScanner has detected a possible fraud attempt from "r20.rs6.net" claiming to be TripsWithPets.com is the #1 on-line resource for pet travel. It was named BEST pet travel site by Consumer Reports! TripsWithPets.com offers resources to ensure pets are welcome, happy, and safe when traveling. The website features a directory of pet friendly hotels and accommodations across the U.S. and Canada. ☐





## Pet Etiquette for Hotel Stays



If you planning on taking your Sheltie to this year's ASSA National Specialty or planning a trip with your Sheltie accompanying you, be sure to plan ahead and take all the necessary precautions to ensure that your pets' travels during the holidays is a happy and safe one.

For many, traveling means staying at a pet friendly hotel. It's important to make sure that you and your pet are prepared. Following some simple tips will help to ensure that your hotel stay with your pet is an enjoyable one:

1. It's recommended to book a room on the ground floor and by an exit. This will make it much easier for you to take your pet out for bathroom breaks.
2. Make sure to always clean up after your pet as well.
3. Be sure to exercise your pet...this means walks. Ask hotel personnel about the best places to walk your pet.
4. Treat the hotel room with respect...this means covering any furniture and beds that your pet may be allowed on.
5. If traveling with a cat, place their litter boxes in the bathroom. This will make cleaning up much easier.
6. It's recommended to not leave your pet unattended in your hotel room. Even the best behaved pets can bark and become destructive

when in new surroundings. If you must leave your pet alone, be sure that it's for a very short time. Alert the front desk that your pet is alone in the room and try putting on the TV or a radio to make your pet more comfortable. If you pet travels with a crate or kennel, place them in it when leaving the room. In addition, place a note on the hotel door indicating that your pet is in the room.

7. Don't leave any pests behind. Before leaving home be sure to give your pet a good cleaning and de-flea and de-tick them. This means a good flea and tick bath along with utilizing preventative flea and tick control. Leaving behind a stinky smell, or worse, fleas or ticks is the kind of thing that makes accommodations change their pet friendly policy. In addition, if a deposit is required, these types of things could very well prevent you from getting it back.

8. Accidents happen! Even pets that have never had an "accident" indoors may do so under stress. Bring along a disinfectant as well as a rag in the event that you have to clean up after your pet. Not doing so could also cause a loss of deposit.

9. To ensure that you're welcomed back, keep your pet on a leash and avoid taking them into dining areas.

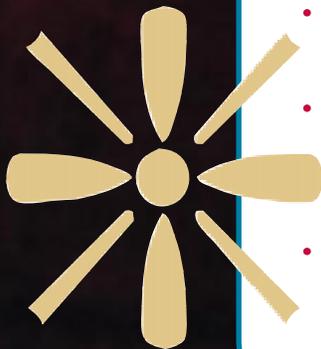
Following some common sense rules will help ensure that your pet has a happy and safe trip. ☐

You might enjoy viewing this YouTube video of dancing sheepdogs—

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8F\\_slaimGM&feature=share](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8F_slaimGM&feature=share)

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