



# My Pet Depends on Me

Pet Health and Safety

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# Pet Safety

- Proactive
- Reactive

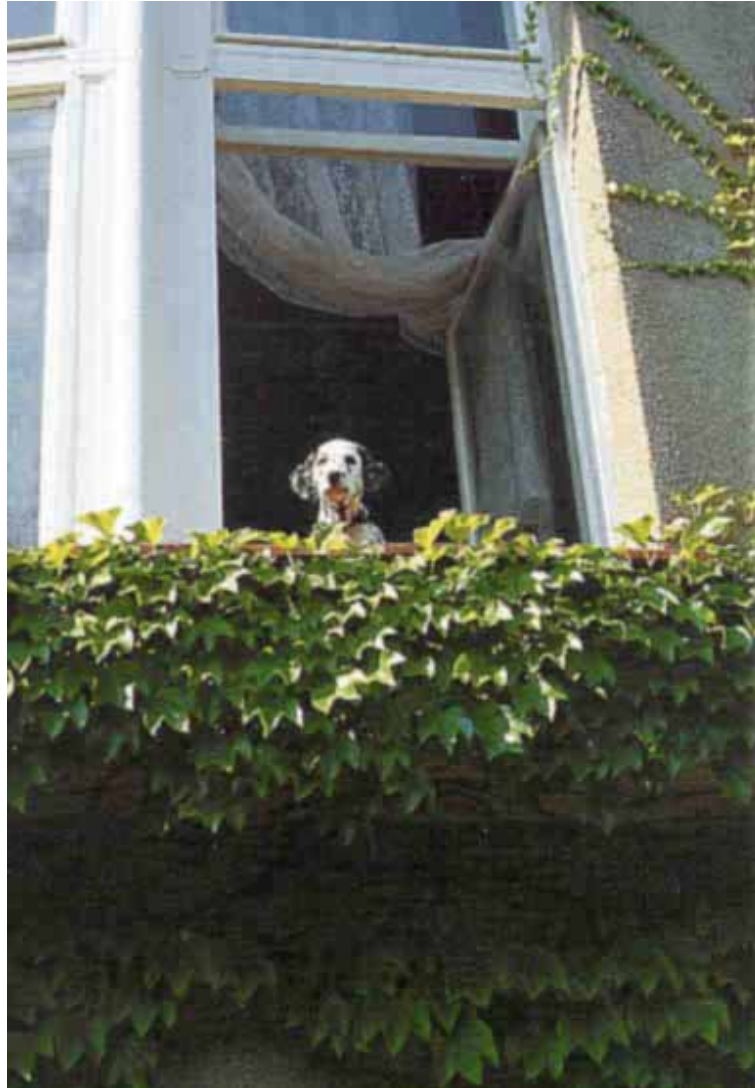


# Proactive Approach

- Identify potential for harm
  - At home
  - Outdoors
  - On trips
  - In disasters



# Home Sweet Home



# Indoor Toxins



- General Concepts
  - Limit access
  - Assess interest to pets- flavoring, shaped like kibble
  - Retain packaging with active ingredients
- Reaction
  - **Animal Poison Control 888-426-4435**
  - In some cases 3% hydrogen peroxide can be used in an alert dog to induce vomiting (1 ml/lb up to 45 ml or 3 tbsp)
  - Some substances will cause more damage when vomited, so do not induce emesis at home without veterinary recommendations



# Rodenticides

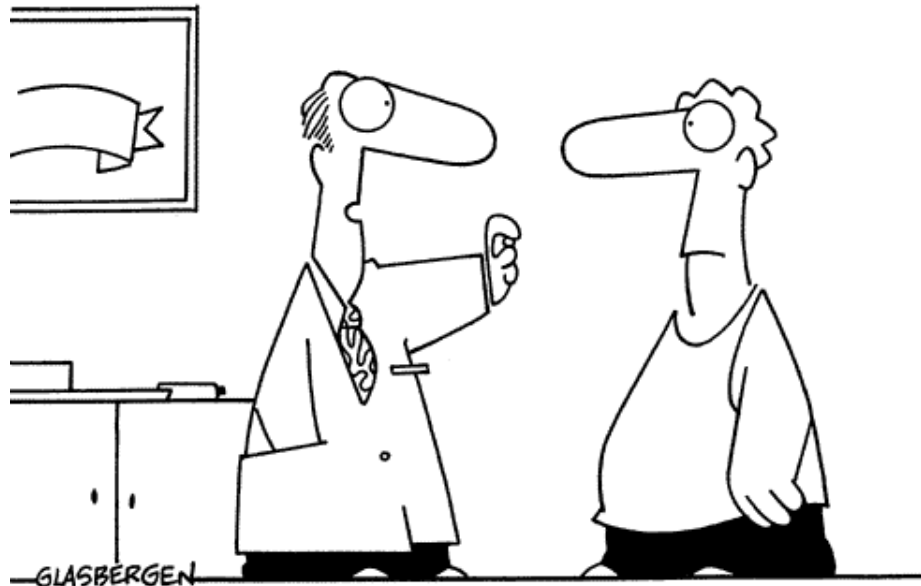


- One of the most common intoxications seen at Oradell Animal Hospital
- Multiple types
  - Use anticoagulant rodenticides if unavoidable (Vitamin K can be given as an antidote if treated promptly)

# Medication

- Accidental access
- Intentional administration

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**“To prevent a heart attack, take one aspirin every day.  
Take it out for a jog, then take it to the gym,  
then take it for a bike ride....”**

# Medications

- Tylenol, aspirin, and other anti-inflammatory
  - Not safe in cats!!! (Less than one regular strength tylenol or aspirin is toxic to cats)
  - Variable tolerance in dogs- buffered aspirin may be okay at some doses, tylenol is toxic



# Medications



- Antidepressants, cold medications, vitamins, etc
  - 20lb dog GI upset w/ 2 prenatal vitamins, 6 tabs are potentially fatal due to the iron ingestion
- Enemas- avoid Fleet enemas!
- Always check with a veterinarian if a product is okay to use in your pet's specific condition

# Zinc



- Pennies (minted since 1982)
- Cause life-threatening hemolysis
- Should be treated as an emergency
- Treatment would include removal and assessment of pet for anemia and gastritis



# Chocolate



- Toxicity is dose dependent
- Toxic dose varies in different product, as the concentration of theobromine varies
  - Chocolate flavored substances (Oreos, etc)
  - Milk chocolate (~0.8 oz/lb)
  - Semi-sweet or dark chocolate (~0.3 oz/lb)
  - Unsweetened or Baker's chocolate (~0.1 oz/lb)
- Caffeine is a related toxin and will have additive effects with theobromine
  - Nestle's milk chocolate has more than double the caffeine in Hershey's milk chocolate

# Other food toxins

- Grapes and Raisins- renal failure
- Garlic- hemolysis
- Onion- hemolysis
- Yeast dough-expansion, alcohol
- Macadamia nuts- incoordination, tremors, vomiting
- Avocado- GI upset in dogs, respiratory distress/death in birds, mice, rabbits, horses, cattle, goats



# Cleaning products

- Soaps, shampoo, laundry detergents generally are irritating and will cause vomiting and diarrhea
- Cationic detergents: fabric softeners, germicides, sanitizers- can cause corrosive burns. Higher concentrations should not be vomited.
- Bleach is mild-moderately irritating, fumes are an additional issue
- Reaction: rinse fur thoroughly, oral administration of water or milk, seek veterinary care for symptomatic treatment



# Garbage

- A cornucopia of potential hazards
- Infection- *E. coli*, salmonella, clostridium, staphalococcus, streptococcus, bacillus
- Intoxication- neurotoxin are found in moldy nuts, grains or other food
- Gastrointestinal obstructions
- Reaction: during cleanup, assess the contents of garbage, watch for problems!

Tiger lilly



Sago palm



# House Plants

Daffodil



- Lillies
  - Nephrotoxic
- Kalanchoe
  - GI and Cardiotoxic
- Cyclamen
  - GI irritation, may be fatal
- Sago palm (cyclid)
  - 1-2 seeds can cause liver failure & seizures
- Tulips, Daffodils
  - GI irritation, Neuro/Cardiotoxic

Tulip



# Know what house plants you have!



Cyclomen

Kalanchoe grandiflora



Easter lilly



# Nontoxic Threats

- Obstructions

- Esophageal

- rawhide/chew treats, bones, toys, an entire leash!!! Even digestible items can cause severe problems.

- Gastrointestinal

- Linear: ribbon/string/thread, pantyhose, unraveled carpet, etc
    - Nonlinear: socks, rocks, underwear, meat packaging, aluminum foil, toys

- Mandibular

- Marrow bone around lower jaw



Thumper



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# Nontoxic threats



- Electrical cord injury- oral burns, respiratory distress, cardiac arrhythmias, seizures
- Burns- cool the area with water immersion, sprays, or compresses
  - Smoke exposure compounds the severity
- Near drowning- shock, respiratory distress
  - Briefly hold pet with head down and compress chest to clear airway

# Nontoxic threats

- Children
  - Supervision for your pet's sake
  - Supervision for your child's sake
- Falls are very common in young small breed dogs



# Out on the Town (or just in the yard)



# Trauma

- Types: Hit by car, falls, fights, scrapes
- Pets on leashes are less often affected
- Enclosed yards should be free of debris and securely enclosed
- Minimize a pets ability to escape when a door is opened, ensure windows are properly screened
- Neutered pets have less tendency to roam/fight



# Trauma



- Severity of injuries can be variable
- Painful pet may be distressed enough to bite
- Assess ability to interact with pet
  - If pet is flailing and trying to bite
    - A smaller pet can be scooped up with a thick towel or blanket
    - A large pet may need the assistance of local Animal Control officers
    - Use rolled gauze or panty hose to make a muzzle

# Trauma



- If bleeding, can attempt to apply dressing: bandage or other clean material (towel, diaper, sanitary products) with gauze, tape, or elastic type bandage applied firmly—but NOT TIGHT
- If not walking, can use a towel, blanket, or board as a makeshift stretcher, try to minimize movement
- Take notice of mentation and urinations
- Bite wounds can be deceiving in appearance, veterinary care should be obtained (wound care, antibiotics, rabies vaccine booster, etc)



"It's the gazelles. They got a restraining order."

# Hot & Cold



- Heat stress
  - At 85°, a car can heat to 102° in 10 min, 120° in 30 min; at 90°, it can reach 160°
  - Lack of water and shade, longer coats, shorter noses, young/old are risk factors
  - Exercise will induce a problem at lower temps
  - Signs include weakness/incoordination, collapse, panting, tremors, vomiting/diarrhea
  - Clothes dryers and attics also pose a risk
- Burned paws on blacktop

# Hot & Cold

- If heat stroke is suspected: immediately spray pet with cool water (no ice), allow small amounts of cool water to drink if alert.
  - Do not wrap in wet towels, these will insulate over time, instead of allow heat dissipation
  - Apply a fan, if able, during transport to veterinary hospital



# Hot & Cold



- Frostbite generally affects extremities (ears, tail, footpads) first, young/malnourished animals are at higher risk
- Hypothermia affects animals outside in sudden storms most commonly
- Outdoor pets need to have access to insulated areas and water- snow and ice are not acceptable substitutes.
- Avoid metal bowls
- Avoid/clean salt off feet/undercarriage, do not allow pets to lick it

# Pests

- Insect hypersensitivity-
  - Often present with facial swelling, hives, vomiting, or diarrhea
  - More severe cases involve collapse and respiratory difficulties
- Skunks
  - Bathe pet in 1qt 3% hydrogen peroxide,  $\frac{1}{4}$  c baking soda, and 1tsp liquid soap; rinse well
  - Irrigate eyes for at least 5 minutes if sprayed in face. Watch for squinting or rubbing





# Infection

- Fleas & Ticks
  - Preventatives: be careful to follow label directions; only use a product on the intended species, only if the pet is healthy
  - Tick inspection & removal
- Heartworms- spread by mosquitoes, which are present in this area at least May- November. Most recommend year round preventatives
- Intestinal parasites- usually spread in stool, so always clean up after your pet, avoid stool contaminated areas for walking your pet

# Infection



- Keep pets up to date on vaccines
  - Canine
    - Rabies, distemper, parvo virus- essential
    - Leptospirosis- wildlife, dogs, rodents
    - Bordatella- kennel cough
    - Lyme
  - Feline
    - Rabies, respiratory-panleukopenia-essential
    - Leukemia
    - FIV

# Outdoor Toxins

## Snake Bites

- Timber rattlesnake, northern copperhead: crotalidae
  - Signs can be delayed up to 72 hours (usually within 1 hour): local tissue destruction, shock, arrhythmias, seizures, coagulopathies, death
  - Punctures may/may not be found
  - Immobilize/elevate the area, limit activity (carry pet if able)
  - Do not apply a tourniquet or ice, do not give any medication





Azalea



Yew



Castor Bean

# Plants

- Mushrooms- many varieties
  - May cause neurologic, GI , liver, kidney, heart problems
- Azaleas/rhododendron- GI upset, weakness, coma, death
- Yew- trembling, incoordination, respiratory distress, GI upset, Heart failure, death
- Castor Bean- Ricin, very toxic!!! GI upset, seizures, coma, death

# Antifreeze



- Ethylene glycol
  - Initially depression, incoordination, seizures, vomiting, drinking/urinating larger volumes
  - Then increased respirations, heart rate 12-24 hrs later
  - Kidney failure 24-72 hours later
  - 1tsp is deadly to a cat
  - 1tbsp is deadly to a 20# dog
- Products with propylene glycol are safer for animals
- Clean up spills!

# Travel



# Car Travel

- Seat belts/restrict movement
- All pets should be identifiable in case of separation, with destination details on the collar
- Do not feed pets in the car
- Acclimate pets with short rides
- Bring pertinent medical history, medication and food for length of trip
- Locate 24 hour veterinary hospital and hotels that allow pets
- Always notify your veterinarian of travel if illness occurs in the months after a trip



# Boarding

- Inquire in advance about medical requirements
- Make sure they are aware of any special needs of your pet, and are equipped to handle those needs
- Make sure you will be within reach in case of emergency, or an alternate person is available to make decisions for you





# Travel by Plane

- 1% of animals flying are lost/injured/killed in transport
- Cargo holds pose higher risk than the cabin
- Inquire with the airline for specific requirements
- If traveling internationally, inquire about quarantine and health requirements with the destination country (health certificate may be time sensitive)

# Travel by Plane

- Put a picture of your pet, destination information, live animal label, and extra food on the carrier
- Freeze water the night before so it will not spill
- The carrier should be USDA approved, & big enough for your pet to sit, stand, and turn around
- Put flight information on collar
- Chose a direct flight to minimize separation
- Sedatives decrease an animal's ability to deal with physical stress, like temperature changes



# Disaster



# Disaster Preparedness



- Evacuation supplies (rotate every 2 months)
  - Food bowls, food, and water to last 7 days
  - Carrier, leash, harness
  - Medications for 7 days, medical records, recent photo in waterproof container
  - Cleanup supplies, disposable litter pans
  - Flashlight, blanket to scoop up scared pet
  - Toys

# Disaster Preparedness

- Bring pets indoors if inclement weather is expected- they can become disoriented
- Rescue alert sticker- type/number of pets
- Consider destination for evacuation
  - Red cross shelters do not accept pets
  - Friends, kennels, hotels, shelters
- Temporary vs. permanent caregivers
- Trust-fund babies?



# Summary

- Identify and minimize risks to your pet at home, outdoors, and on trips
- Be prepared for the worst case scenario
- If problems occur, seek veterinary guidance
  - Regular or ER veterinarian
  - Animal Poison Control  
888-426-4435
  - [aspca.org](http://aspca.org)



The End

