

## March is Pet Poison Prevention Month

March is Pet Poison Prevention Month and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) shares the top 10 most commonly reported toxins that are harmful to pets.

1. Over the counter (OTC) medications are the most common toxic substance that pets ingest. Commonly found around the house, this group includes Ibuprofen, acetaminophen, and herbal supplements.
2. Prescription medications for people, such as medications for cardiac care, ADHD, thyroid, and antidepressant medications, make up a significant amount of these cases. Keep all medications out of your pet's reach, even if the bottle or container is locked.
3. Foods such as Xylitol, grapes, raisins, garlic, onions, and protein bars can be extremely harmful, and even fatal if ingested.
4. Sweet treats with chocolate, or chocolate by itself, can be harmful, especially for dogs.
5. Veterinary products, including chewable medications, look like treats to dogs. Keep these items safely away from all pets.
6. Household items for home improvement projects such as glue, paint, and spackle can harm pets.
7. Rodenticide used in mouse and rat bait can have serious consequences including internal bleeding, kidney failure, seizures or even death.
8. Many household plants can be hazardous to your pet's health. ASPCA reports that the most severe cases involved cats with exposure to lilies.

9. Insecticides can cause health challenges. ASPCA recommends user safer alternatives and better management to help keep pets safe.

10. Garden products including fertilizers and herbicides, even organic products can harm your pet. Keep your furry friends inside and away from these types of applications.

It's important that these toxins and any other harmful substances be kept out of your pet's reach. While accidents may happen, the less accessible the items are, the less likely your pet is to discover and ingest them.

For more information on pet toxins, visit the [ASPCA's poison control](#) page. If you have an emergency, reach out to a veterinarian or call the ASPCA Poison Hotline at 888-426-4435.