



Poisons, Poisons, Everywhere!



By Deb M. Eldredge, DVM

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center recently released a list of the ten most common poisons that dogs ingest. What is immediately striking about the list is how ordinary each of the poisons is – most of us have these compounds in our homes or garages. The list is a reminder that it is important to keep medications and potentially toxic items locked up or stored safely away from our pets. Here's a list of the toxins you need to keep out of your pet's reach:



Ibuprofen – Ibuprofen is a widely used human non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug. In dogs, this medication can cause stomach and kidney problems and even impact the nervous system causing symptoms such as depression and seizures. If you drop a pill, be very careful to find it before your dog does. Labs and Beagles are notorious for snarfing up dropped drugs. If this happens in your household, be sure to make your dog vomit, if you can, as soon as you suspect he ate any pills, and then call your veterinarian. Never give your dog Ibuprofen for pain or discomfort.

Chocolate – Chocolate has two potent substances – theobromine and caffeine. The amount of these compounds present in chocolate varies greatly depending upon the type and brand of chocolate. The dog who indulges in chocolate with large amounts of theobromine or caffeine may show increased heart rate and excitability leading to possible seizures. If you can make your dog vomit close to the time of ingestion, do so. Then head to your veterinarian. It may take up to three days for the theobromine effects to wear off, and this can be dangerous for your dog's heart.

Ant and Roach Baits – Ant and roach baits may be found in motels when you travel, as well as in areas around your home. Luckily the toxic substances are generally present in small amounts, but they are often found mixed in with tasty treats like peanut butter that your dog may find irresistible. If your dog ingests the bait, he is more likely to have a problem with the parts of the container he eats than with the ingredients, but take him into your veterinarian just the same. Better to be safe than sorry.

Rodenticides – People often rely on rodenticides to remove mice and rats when they don't have a good cat or skilled terrier to do the dirty work. Most of these products contain anticoagulants that stimulate fatal bleeding in rodents. They can also stimulate bleeding in dogs that eat the treated blocks. Paralysis, seizures, and kidney failure are all possible effects of these potent drugs. Induce vomiting if you can, but then head directly to your veterinarian. Your dog may need fluids, blood tests to follow the progression of treatment, vitamin K injections, and possibly even a blood transfusion. Some versions of rodenticides have chloecalciferol that can cause elevated blood calcium and phosphorus levels, which lead to renal failure. This may require a much different course of action for your pet. If possible, bring the container for the poison into your vet's office, so they can determine exactly what your dog is up against.

Acetaminophen – Acetaminophen is an extremely common pain medication for people. Unfortunately, this drug can cause liver failure, swelling of the face and paws, a problem with oxygen transport in the blood, and even a decrease in tear production for dogs.

N-acetylcysteine is an antidote to the problem but it needs to be repeated until all signs of poisoning are cleared. Supportive treatment for the liver and dry eyes is recommended. If your dog ingests acetaminophen, he will probably need to be hospitalized.

Pseudoephedrine Containing Cold Medications – Numerous over the counter cold medications contain pseudoephedrine. In dogs, this drug causes panting, excitement, increased temperature, and increased heart rate. Sedation and even general anesthesia may be required to settle your dog down, while fluid therapy will help to flush this substance from your dog's system.

Thyroid Hormones – Thyroid hormones are used to treat both people and dogs with low thyroid levels. Luckily, most dogs handle an overdose of these medications quite well. An increased heart rate and a hyperactive dog that is bouncing off the walls are common signs that your dog has eaten something he shouldn't.

Bleach – Most bleach products used at home are fairly dilute. Commercial bleaches, however, can be very strong and cause irritation to your dog's eyes or skin. A quick bath is ideal if bleach is on your dog's skin or coat. If your dog inhales bleach, especially any bleach mixed with ammonia products, she could develop a deadly chemical pneumonitis. This can affect you too, so don't breathe deeply yourself. Get your dog out into fresh air as quickly as possible and then

to your veterinarian.

Fertilizer, Including Plant "Foods" – Fertilizer can be very attractive to dogs. Additives such as bone meal are enticing. While the basic fertilizer formulas of nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus are generally not highly toxic, additives such as fungicides can be. Most dogs that ingest fertilizer show gastrointestinal signs such as vomiting and/or diarrhea, but they do recover on their own. In some cases, however, they need fluids for hydration and medications to settle and soothe the stomach and intestines. Consult with your veterinarian for the best course of treatment when your dog ingests fertilizer.

Hydrocarbons Including Paints, Polishes, and Fuel Oils – Rounding out the list are hydrocarbons. These products can be found in paints, polishes, and fuel oils – including kerosene, acetone, and gasoline. Dogs that swallow these products tend to have gastrointestinal upsets. The skin can also be irritated from contact. If your dog simply breathes in fumes or aspirates these products, he may suffer from depression or hyper-excitability along with secondary pneumonia and liver or kidney damage. Dogs that have breathed or ingested hydrocarbons **should not** be made to vomit as the risk of aspiration is too high. Instead, they need symptomatic treatment and supportive care such as fluids to flush their systems, baths to remove and residue, and saline flushing of the eyes if any residue splashed into them.

Take Care – All the products on the ASPCA list can be found in most of our households. To keep your pet safe, be proactive. Store goods safely in locked cupboards, use secure, non-breakable containers, and always keep careful track of all medications in the household. Taking some basic precautions can go a long way toward avoiding a catastrophe for your dog.

If you have questions about the safety of a substance or suspect your pet may have ingested something he shouldn't have, don't wait – Call the



National Animal Poison Control Center at: 1-888-426-4435



World-Famous Scientists Donate Services to The Rabies Challenge Fund Charitable Trust

Two world-renowned giants of veterinary vaccine research -- Dr. W. Jean Dodds of Hemopet and Co-Trustee of The Rabies Challenge Fund and Dr. Ronald Schultz of the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine -- have volunteered their time to ensure that critical 5 and 7 year rabies challenge studies are conducted in the United States. The studies are to be financed by The Rabies Challenge Fund Charitable Trust, a tax-exempt organization founded by pet vaccine disclosure advocate Kris L. Christine of Maine in 2005, and will be performed by Dr. Schultz at the University of Wisconsin. The University has waived its usual 48% overhead fee for these studies.

The concurrent challenge studies will determine the duration of immunity conveyed by the canine rabies vaccine, with the goal of extending the state-mandated interval for boosters to 5, and then to 7 years. According to Dr. Dodds, "This is one of the most important projects in veterinary medicine. It will benefit all dogs by providing evidence that protection from rabies vaccination lasts at least 5 years, thereby avoiding unnecessary revaccination with its attendant risk of debilitating adverse reactions."

Scientific data indicate that vaccinating dogs against rabies every three years, as most states require, is unnecessary. Studies have shown the duration of protective immunity as measured by serum antibody titers against rabies virus to persist for seven years post-vaccination, and results of a 1992 French challenge study led by Michel Aubert demonstrated dogs were immune to rabies five years after vaccination. Researchers believe the rabies vaccine causes the most and worst adverse reactions in animals and concur that it should not be given more often than is necessary to maintain immunity. Adverse reactions to rabies vaccination can include autoimmune diseases affecting the thyroid, joints, blood, eyes, skin, kidney, liver, bowel and central nervous system; anaphylactic shock; aggression; seizures; epilepsy; and fibrosarcomas at injection sites.

Dr. Schultz states that "[s]howing that a vaccine for rabies can provide 5 or preferably 7 years of immunity would have great significance not only in controlling rabies but more importantly in reducing the adverse vaccine reactions that can occur in dogs and cats after vaccination."

More information on The Rabies Challenge Fund and the concurrent 5 and 7 year challenge studies it will finance can be found at the fund's newly established website designed by volunteer Andrea Brin at:

www.RabiesChallengeFund.org.

Bits & Pieces

THE RESCUER

Dedicated to those who are involved in Rescue.

Unlike most days at Rainbow Bridge, this day dawned cold and gray, damp as a swamp and as dismal as could be imagined. All the recent arrivals had no idea what to think, as they had never experienced a day like this before. But the animals who had been waiting for their beloved people knew exactly what was going on and started to gather at the pathway leading to THE BRIDGE to watch. It wasn't long before an elderly dog came into view, head hung low and tail dragging. The other dogs, the ones who had been there for a while, knew what his story was right away, for they had seen this happen far too often. He approached slowly, obviously in great emotional pain, but with no sign of injury or illness. Unlike all the other dogs waiting at THE BRIDGE, this one had not been restored to youth and made healthy and vigorous again. As he walked toward THE BRIDGE, he watched all of the other dogs watching him. He knew he was out of place here and the sooner he could cross over, the happier he would be. But, alas, as he approached THE BRIDGE, his way was barred by the appearance of an Angel who apologized, but told him that he would not be able to pass. Only dogs who were with their people could pass over the Rainbow Bridge.

With no place else to turn to, the elderly dog turned toward the fields before THE BRIDGE and saw a group of other dogs like himself, also elderly. They weren't playing, but rather simply lying on the green grass, staring out at the pathway leading to THE BRIDGE. And so, he took his place among them, watching the pathway and waiting.



One of the newest arrivals at THE BRIDGE didn't understand what he just witnessed and asked one of the dogs that had been there for while to explain it to him. "You see, this dog was a rescue. He was turned in to rescue just as you see him now, an older dog with his fur graying and his eyes clouding. He never made it out of rescue and passed on with only the love of his Rescuer to comfort him as he left his earthly existence. Because he had no family to give his love to, he has no one to escort him across THE BRIDGE".

The first dog thought about this and then asked, "So what will happen now?" As he was about to receive his answer, the clouds suddenly parted and the gloom lifted. Approaching THE BRIDGE could be seen a single person, a woman. Among the older dogs, the whole group was suddenly bathed in a golden light and they were all young and healthy again, and they began to frolic around the field. A second group of dogs from those waiting came to the pathway and bowed low as the woman neared. At each bowed head, she offered a pat on the head or a scratch behind the ears.

The newly restored dogs fell into a line behind the woman, and followed her over THE BRIDGE. "What happened?" "That was a Rescuer. The dogs you saw bowing in respect were those who found new homes because of her work. They will cross when their families arrive. Those you saw restored were those who never found homes. When a Rescuer arrives, they are allowed to perform one, final act of rescue. They are allowed to escort those animals that they couldn't place on earth across THE RAINBOW BRIDGE."

Author Unknown

Introducing [Petvideo.com](http://www.petvideo.com)

Behavior problems account for the leading cause of owner relinquishment of pets and resulting euthanasia - we all know it and numerous studies confirm it. Often pet parents just need some help in dealing with the issues they are facing. [PETVIDEO.COM](http://www.petvideo.com) wants to help. Petvideo.com, created by the founders of Petfinder.com and Petsincredible, provides free online training clips. We encourage you to direct your web browser to [petvideo.com](http://www.petvideo.com) to view the same positive, reward-based training advice featured on the award winning PetsIncredible DVDs TRAINING YOUR ADOPTED DOG and YOUR ADOPTED CAT. Loads of behavior content (such as the Introducing Pets video found at <http://www.petvideo.com/play.cgi?showId=657>) will reinforce all the great advice you have already been given.

In The Doghouse...

Our Featured Dalmatian

"Spunky"



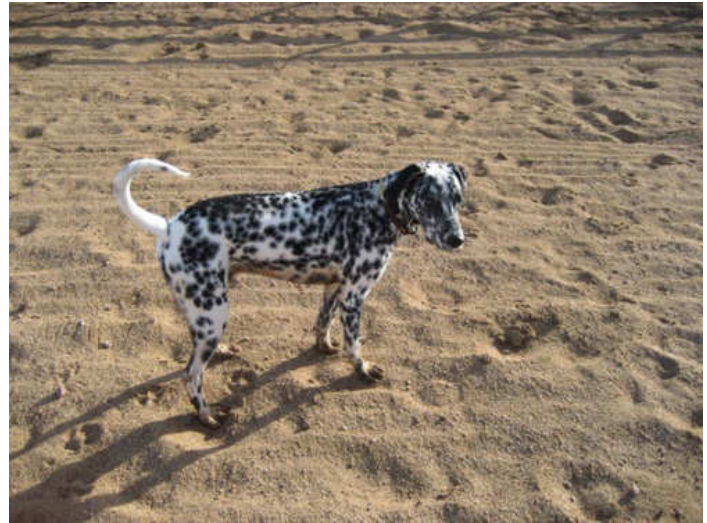
Same ole story for poor Spunky (known as Lucky at the shelter, but we've had way too many Lucky's). Her family moved somewhere where dogs are just not allowed. Spunky, a very pretty little liver/white girl, and her best buddy Nicky, a black lab, are both abandoned and just begging to go to a new home together. They are absolutely bonded at the hip. So, if you're looking for two dogs good in the house, nice with people, and it seems good with dogs, give this lovely pair a look see! Spunky and her bud, Nicky, can be seen at :

Colorado Humane Society
2760 S. Platte River, Englewood, CO
(303) 781-9344 Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 9-5

Featured Happy Beginnings Story

"Lars"

Lars came to us just at the right time. We lost both of our Dals within the past year. I found Lars on the Dal rescue website and inquired about him. At the time he was still at his foster home in Texas awaiting a ride to Colorado. He stayed with another foster family in Colorado Springs until I could go down and meet him. Everyone told me what a wonderful dog he was and they were right! Lars is very happy at his new home where he has seventy acres to explore with Mora, his Heeler/Lab mix sister. They love to chase rabbits together and go on adventures. Lars is very athletic and has a fabulous sense of humor. He loves to go shopping and take whatever items he can get his paws on out through the dog door. I found my missing potatoes and bananas outside in the back yard, as well as numerous items of clothing. He loves to jump into the horse's water tank and splash around. It is truly one of the funniest things I have ever seen. He also enjoys his extensive toy collection. He has brought a lot of joy to our house. Currently, we are attending basic obedience together and he is doing very well. We hope to proceed to agility in April. Lars wishes to thank Karen, his foster mom in Texas, and Stephanie, his foster mom in Colorado Springs for making it possible for him to be here. We just adore him.



Mary & Mark R.

Attention Adopters!! – Yes, I'm talkin' to you!

If you haven't already submitted your Happy Beginnings Story, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE take some time to do it now! Yes, I am begging. We really would like to have your stories on the website and make you a star here in the NewSpots!! So, what are you waiting for? Submit your stories and a new photograph of your fur kid(s), and yourself if you want, to me today! dalmatianrescueofco@comcast.net

If you have any ideas on ANY fundraising projects that we might be able to use, please tell us all about it!

Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible!!

6828 Rim Rock Trail, Fort Collins, CO 80526 **Rescue Hotline: 303-281-8963** Fax: 970-377-9509

<http://www.dalmatianrescue.org>

Please submit ideas and suggestions for **NewSpots** to dalmatianrescueofco@comcast.net