



PAWSITIVE PRESS

Caring for Pets with Love & Kindness Since 1977



It's Poison Prevention Month!

BY SANDRA IRURUETA, DVM

Things happen. Our pets find ways into things that we thought they could not access or we drop something on the floor while preparing or eating a snack and the “living vacuum cleaner” was just too fast. Whether it is toxic or not, you could see effects from our pets ingesting or coming into contact with these things. Many non-toxic things cause gastrointestinal upset, like nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. Toxic things can cause mild effects like GI upset, or severe effects like organ failure, blood cell changes and death. According to the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center, in 2022, the top pet toxins included human medications, chocolates, plants, household cleaners/pest control and recreational drugs...Continued on page 2...

Bringing your pet in for a nail trim?

Pick up your *Petiture club* punch card and when you buy 9 nail trims the 10th one is free!

Have an exotic pet that needs care?



Call now to schedule an appointment for your:

- Guinea Pig
- Hedgehog
- Ferret
- Hamster
- Rat
- Mouse
- Gerbil
- Tortoise
- Turtle
- Bearded Dragon
- Non-Venomous Snake

Visit ahofd.com for a full list of our services for exotic pets.

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FEATURED

Poison Prevention Month

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DID YOU KNOW?

Fleas!

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MAR. COUPONS

- > \$1 Exotic Pet Exam
- > \$40 off Labwork

...Poison Prevention Cont...

SO WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOUR PET GETS INTO SOMETHING?

Stay calm, call your veterinarian (because it's always good to have a heads up), and bring your pet in. If you have a wrapper, bring it in. If you know what and how much they ingested, please tell us. If it was a plant, flower or mushroom and there are pieces or more of them, bring them with you. We can help identify something if you don't know what it is. Several commonly used flowers in arrangements are toxic to pets. If it's a recreational drug, please be open and upfront about it. We will not be judging you but need to know to be able to treat your pet quickly and effectively.

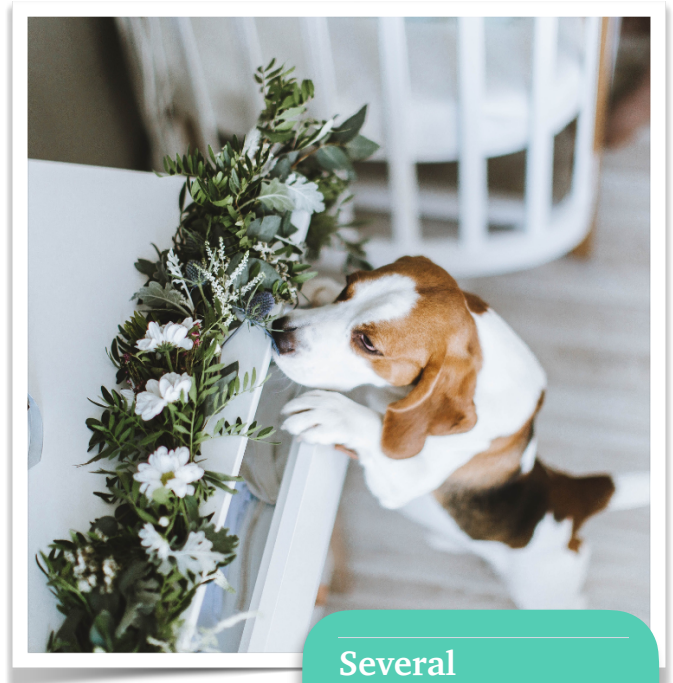
WHAT WILL YOUR VETERINARIAN DO?

Depending on what your pet ingested or came into contact with, we may bath them to remove any residual substance on the skin and fur, induce vomiting to eliminate as much from their body as possible, give them medications to protect their GI tracts, give them activated charcoal to help bind substances in their body, etc. We will very likely call the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center. This is because many of these toxins and poisons are dose dependent meaning that the effects depend on how much was consumed or our pet came into contact with and the size of your pet. So a toxic amount is not the same for a chihuahua as for a Great Dane.

WHY BOTHER CALLING THE ANIMAL POISON CONTROL CENTER?

Simply put, they are the experts when it comes to poisons and toxins. While veterinarians are trained in toxins and poisons, the Poison Control Center helps us navigate your pet's treatment much more quickly and efficiently. They help us determine the expected reactions and effects base on the toxin or poison, and the dose based on your pet's size much faster than we, the veterinarians, could even look it up. It does not always require hospitalization, testing and follow-up. We do usually provide some supportive care to make your pet feel better faster or preventive care to help avoid possible effects.

Should you need us, The Animal Hospital of Dunedin is here and happy to help (727-733-9351). AND should you ever need it, the phone number to ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center is 1-888-426-4435. The ASPCA website is also a wealth of information with pictures and explanations.



Several commonly used flowers in arrangements are toxic to pets.

Did You Know?

BY MICHAEL BARTHOLOMEW, DVM, MSTCVM

Did you know it takes at least 3 months to break the life-cycle of fleas once infestation has begun?

Fleas are pesky external parasites of dogs and cats that will bite to feed on the blood of your pet. These mini vampires can consume up to 15 times their body weight in blood causing itchy bites on your pet and in cases where a dog or cat is hypersensitive to the bites, can lead to severe itching and irritation leading to bacterial infection as well. Fleas can jump up to 6 inches vertically allowing them to hitchhike on our pant legs where we unintentionally bring them to a dog or cat who presents a tastier meal or they hop onto a passing dog or cat who is innocently playing in the back yard or on a walk. **IN FLORIDA, IT IS ESSENTIAL to keep your pet on a veterinary preventative because ridding your house and yard of fleas (they lay 40-50 eggs per day!) can be a costly and lengthy endeavor, especially if your pet has a severe response to flea bites.** Fleas transmit tapeworms as well, an intestinal parasite that is the result of ingesting fleas.

FLEAS!



MARCH COUPONS

Present these coupons during any qualified appointment scheduled during the month of March!



**\$1.00 Exam
FOR EXOTIC PETS**

Call for your appointment today 727-733-9351

NEW Patients only — exam fee is only \$1.00 with this coupon. Good for well or sick appointments with Dr. Fazio or Dr. Sandra. For a complete list of exotic pets we see, please visit our website at ahofd.com May not be combined with any other coupons or discounts. Coupon must be presented at the time of service.

EXPIRES 3/31/24



**\$40 Off
COMPLETE CANINE & FELINE
WELLNESS SCREEN PANELS OR
PRE-SURGICAL LABWORK**

Call for your appointment today 727-733-9351

Wellness screen panel includes the following: Chemistry, CBC, Thyroid Level, Urinalysis, and Microalbuminuria (for cats, a Leukemia and FIV test are also included). Pre-surgical labwork includes: Chemistry and CBC. Pet must be an established patient. May not be combined with any other coupons or discounts. Coupon must be presented at the time of service.

EXPIRES 3/31/24