

# Maryland State Firemen's Association

## Fire Prevention and Life Safety Committee

# TIP Sheet: Pet Safety



*Pets chew up and eat things humans never would think of consuming.*

*Sometimes we unknowingly give our pets human foods or medications that are deadly poison.*

*We love taking our pets with us - across town, on a vacation - temperature (and humidity) extremes may be dangerous or deadly to our pets. So watch them carefully.*

**Poisons** can be eaten, absorbed through the skin, and inhaled. Poisonings can mimic many things. Some poisons act immediately, some take days to appear, potentially making diagnosis difficult. Familiarize yourself with potential signs of poisoning here. As always, if your pet is sick or "not quite normal" please call your veterinarian as soon as possible.

### **Crazy things they eat:**

This range of this topic is almost endless, as pets have (and will) eat almost anything. Sometimes it is the food we unknowingly give them - either recalled pet food, human foods that are toxic to pets, or medications intended for humans. Other times, they find rat bait, stray strings and socks or other household items that leave us scratching our heads and asking why.



*So here are a few tip and ideas that the we all need to keep in all mind when making our homes pet friendly for our four legged furry friends.*

**Common Household Positions:** The average home contains many possible poisons for pets and children. Properly storing and locking up hazardous items is the first step to preventing accidental poisonings. An additional thing to remember for pet owners is the ability of many pets to chew through child locking caps and "safe" containers. Here is a list, in no particular order, of some common toxins to be aware of to protect accidental ingestion by your pet (or children).

If you suspect that, your pet has eaten something toxic, call your veterinarian and/or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center's 24-hour emergency hotline at

**1-888-4-ANI-HELP.**

By the way, now is a good time to double-check smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and other safety devices and replace batteries. Safety, of course, is the key reason - When batteries run low, the devices often emit alert or alarm sounds at frequencies that can be painful and frightening to many pets, which can be traumatic. So always, keep fresh batteries in those devices.

**Contact your local Animal Shelter in your area for addition pet safety tips and you can always go to: [www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org) for more information**

