Pet safety tips

Your pet's natural curiosity can sometimes be dangerous. Here are some basic safety tips to help prevent common pet emergencies.

Heat

Pets can easily overheat or develop life-threatening heatstroke in hot, humid weather.

- Don't leave your pet alone outside in the heat
- Always make sure your pet has plenty of shade and cool water
- Avoid exercising pets when it is too hot or humid
- Never leave your pet unattended in a parked vehicle
- Know the signs of heat exhaustion and heatstroke
- Be aware that long-haired and brachycephalic (short-nosed) pets like Bulldogs, Pugs, and Himalayan cats are especially at risk

Cold

Cold weather hazards can leave your pet susceptible to frostbite or hypothermia.

- Don't leave your pet for long periods outside in the cold or rain
- Clear a path for your dog so they do not slip on snow or ice
- Use only pet-safe ice-melt products (many products are toxic to animals)
- Never allow your pet to walk on ice, frozen lakes, or other frozen bodies of water

Holidays

Holiday foods and decorations can be too tempting for pets to ignore.

- People meals and snacks can be toxic for pets
- Rich holiday foods can cause gastrointestinal upset or pancreatitis
- Keep breakable decorations out of reach, so pets don't knock them over or eat them
- Be aware that Christmas ornaments and tinsel are tempting to chew onand dangerous to swallow
- Hide cords from electric decorations, so pets aren't tempted to chew them
- Don't bring toxic plants, like lilies, mistletoe, or holly, into your home

Poisons

Keep common pet toxins out of reach.

- Medications
- Foods like chocolate, grapes, raisins, xylitol (in chewing gum), garlic, onions, raw yeast dough
- Alcohol and recreational drugs
- Cleaning products, chemicals, glues, and paints
- Pesticides, poisons, and fertilizers
- Toxic plants like lilies, azaleas, palm trees, chrysanthemums, and more
- Antifreeze

	٠	
E		3
		₹

Be prepared. Have contact information for your veterinary practice, the nearest 24-hour emergency hospital, and a pet poison hotline ready to go in case of an emergency.



