ANIMAL SAFETY TIPS

Wilson Elan, DVM, Port Douglas Veterinary Clinic

Most owners do all they can to keep their pets safe. Yet there are some dangers that pet owners may not know about. Even if pet owners take care to pet-proof their homes, accidents can happen.

Dogs

- Chocolate, especially a lot of it, is very toxic to dogs. If your dog eats chocolate, immediately give her hydrogen peroxide to make her vomit.

- It is very dangerous for tiny dogs to sniff inside a sandwich bag. They could get stuck and asphyxiate. If this happens, free your dog from the bag and breathe into her mouth until she breathes again.

- Have your vet insert an ID microchip under your pet’s skin. The microchip will contain your dog’s name and your contact information. Hopefully someone will take your lost dog to a vet, who will scan the chip, get the information, and let you know she has been found. People have their cats microchipped, too!

- If your dog has an open wound that has become red and swollen, take her to a vet. Most likely the wound is infected, and your vet will prescribe antibiotics.
Cats

- Keep all string, ribbon, yarn, and rubber bands carefully stored away. If swallowed, any of these items could wrap around your cat’s intestines and cause permanent damage — or even death. ✓

- Many indoor plants are toxic to cats. You can find a list of these on the Internet. If your cat eats part of an indoor plant that is toxic, take him and the plant to the vet immediately. ✓

- Make sure that the doors of cabinets containing cleaning supplies are securely closed. If cats step on even a small amount of a harsh cleaning product and lick their paws, it could be dangerous to their health. ✓

- Curious little kittens can easily fall into toilets, and some have been known to drown there! If you have a kitten, keep toilet seats in your house down at all times. ✓
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Dogs

• Chocolate, especially a lot of it, is very toxic to dogs. If your dog eats chocolate, immediately give her hydrogen peroxide to make her vomit. Treat

• It is very dangerous for tiny dogs to sniff inside a sandwich bag. They could get stuck and suffocate. If this happens, free your dog from the bag and breathe into her mouth until she breathes again. Does Not Apply

• Have your vet insert an ID microchip under your pet’s skin. The microchip will contain your dog’s name and your contact information. Hopefully someone will take your lost dog to a vet, who will scan the chip, get the information, and let you know she has been found. People have their cats microchipped, too! Prevent

• If your dog has an open wound that has become red and swollen, take her to a vet. Most likely the wound is infected, and your vet will prescribe antibiotics. Any open wound on your dog could quickly become infected. Treat
Cats

- Keep all string, ribbon, yarn, and rubber bands carefully **stored** away. If swallowed, any of these **items** could wrap around your cat’s **intestines** and cause **permanent damage** -- or even death. □ Prevent ✓

- Many indoor plants are toxic to cats. You can find a list of these on the **Internet**. If your cat eats part of an indoor plant that is toxic, take him and the plant to the vet immediately. □ Prevent and Treat ✓

- Make sure that the doors of **cabinets containing** cleaning **supplies** are securely closed. If cats step on even a small amount of a **harsh** cleaning **product** and lick their paws, it could be **dangerous** to their health. □ Prevent

- **Curious** little kittens can easily fall into toilets, and some have been known to drown there! If you have a kitten, keep toilet seats in your house down at all times. □ Does Not Apply ✓
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- If your dog has an open wound that has become red and swollen, take her to a vet. Most likely the wound is infected, and your vet will prescribe antibiotics. ✓

Highlight each tip by type:
- green = treats emergency
- blue = prevents emergency
- orange = treats and prevents emergency
- red = does not apply to Scout and Kwes!
Cats

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- Many indoor plants are toxic to cats. You can find a list of these on the Internet. If your cat eats part of an indoor plant that is toxic, take him and the plant to the vet immediately. ✅

- Make sure that the doors of cabinets containing cleaning supplies are securely closed. If cats step on even a small amount of a harsh cleaning product and lick their paws, it could be dangerous to their health. ✅

- Equipment little kittens can easily fall into toilets, and some have been known to drown there! If you have a kitten, keep toilet seats in your house down at all times. ✅
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Dogs

• Chocolate, especially a lot of it, is very toxic to dogs.

  If a dog eats a minimum of one ounce of chocolate for every 50 pounds of her weight, it’s time to worry.  ✔ If your dog eats chocolate, immediately give her hydrogen peroxide to make her vomit.

• It is very dangerous for tiny dogs to sniff inside a sandwich bag. They could get stuck and suffocate. If this happens, free your dog from the bag and breathe into her mouth until she breathes again.

• Have your vet insert an ID microchip under your pet’s skin. The microchip will contain your dog’s name and your contact information. Hopefully someone will take your lost dog to a vet, who will scan the chip, get the information, and let you know she has been found. People have their cats microchipped, too!

• If your dog has an open wound that has become red and swollen, take her to a vet. Most likely the wound is infected, and your vet will prescribe antibiotics.

  On the Internet, look up pictures of infected wounds on dogs and compare the pictures to Scout’s wound.  ✔
Cats

- Keep all string, ribbon, yarn, and rubber bands carefully stored away. If swallowed, any of these items could wrap around your cat’s intestines and cause permanent damage -- or even death.

- Many indoor plants are toxic to cats. You can find a list of these on the Internet. If your cat eats part of an indoor plant that is toxic, take him and the plant to the vet immediately. If the vet knows the type of plant your cat ate, he or she is more likely to give the right treatment.

- Make sure that the doors of cabinets containing cleaning supplies are securely closed. If cats step on even a small amount of a harsh cleaning product and lick their paws, it could be dangerous to their health.

- Curious little kittens can easily fall into toilets, and some have been known to drown there! If you have a kitten, keep toilet seats in your house down at all times. If your kitten does fall in the toilet and is there for a while, her body could become dangerously cold.
ANSWER KEY
EPISODE 9: MEDICAL MYSTERY

QUICKWRITE ACTIVITY

Writing a bulletin board notice is a way to make an important announcement a group of people will want to see.

Write a notice reminding everyone that there are two animals in the office today. Then give them any tips you think might be useful. Before you write, ask yourself:

- What kind of pet emergencies might we have if people aren’t careful, and how can we avoid them?

Write a 3-6 line long bulletin board notice about Scout and Kwesi. Before you hit “Send,” make sure you have:

- In your own words, clearly stated the importance of keeping the two animals apart
- offered two to four tips on how to make the office safer for the animals

Student responses will vary. See your Teacher Dashboard.