

National Poison Prevention Week

March 15th through March 21st is National Poison Prevention Week. Its main goal is to bring awareness to local communities of the dangers of unintentional poisonings and to take preventive measures as the dangers warrant. This year the theme is “Children Act Fast... So Do Poisons” meaning that young children must be supervised when household chemicals or drugs are being used. However, pet owners can follow many of the tips and recommendations for families with young children:

- Make sure all chemicals are labeled and stored away in a pet-safe location: Labeling chemicals will help adults store them away properly, while keeping chemicals in a safe location and out of sight will prevent access by curious pets.
- Have emergency numbers handy, including the Animal Poison Control Center: Have your veterinarian’s number close to your ALL phones as well as other emergency contacts and the National Animal Poison Control Center (1.800.548.2423)
- Know what to do if your pet ingests a chemical: While contacting the Animal Poison Control Center, have the following information available:
 - The type of animal
 - It’s approximate weight
 - Existing health conditions or problems
 - The substance involved and how it contacted your pet
 - Whether the pet has vomited, other symptoms

Be proactive! Supervise your pets’ behavior to keep them safe from chemicals. Their wellbeing depends on you!