

# 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 on—and 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



- ▶ 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.

