

## Learn more

about protecting pets in your home by contacting the following organizations:

### American Humane Society

303.792.9900

[www.americanhumane.org](http://www.americanhumane.org)

Offers information on pet care and issues including household chemical hazards.

### American Red Cross

202.303.4498

<http://www.redcross.org/services/hss/tips/pet.html>

Gives tips on how to care for your pet in an emergency. Also offers a pet first-aid book.

### ASPCA

(American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)

212.876.7700

[www.aspca.org](http://www.aspca.org)

Provides information for making and keeping your pet's home poison safe and details about the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center.

### American Veterinary Medical Association

847.925.8070

[www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)

Offers an assortment of brochures on animal health including household hazards.

### Humane Society of the United States

202.452.1100

[www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)

Provides a variety of pet care guides including protecting your pet from common household dangers and accidental poisoning.

*Note: PRC does not endorse or recommend any of the groups or organizations listed in this brochure. Individuals seeking information or services from them should fully research their qualifications and capabilities as related to their needs.*

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*"Working to protect the environment since 1939"*

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**Pennsylvania Resources Council's** mission is  
*to promote conservation of our natural resources  
and protection of scenic beauty through public  
education and outreach in a collaborative effort with  
government agencies, business, charitable  
foundations and other nonprofit organizations.*

# Sure Bets to Safeguard Pets in Your Home

**Protect your loved ones ó those who run, fly, slither, swim or hop ó from dangerous chemicals found in or around your home.**



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**Take a quick look around your house and you may discover as much as 100 pounds of household hazardous waste (HHW) stored in your basement, garage, kitchen, bathroom and garden shed.**

**Surprised? Don't be — you're not alone.**

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, an average home can easily accumulate this amount of cleaners, pesticides, paints, automotive fluids and other products containing hazardous components. While such products are safe to use if you take the proper precautions, problems generally arise when you use — or dispose of — them improperly. And if your household contains pets, you need to take extra precautions to protect all species living under your roof.

**Protect your pet's health** by learning more about dangers in the home. Read this brochure, talk to your veterinarian and contact the organizations listed as resources.

Then begin to make your home a safer place for your family and your pets.

- Buy less toxic products.
- If a situation requires using a more toxic product, buy only as much as you need to do the job.
- Make safe cleaning solutions at home from products such as baking soda and vinegar.
- Collect products throughout your house and drop them off at a HHW collection event.

*For more information about collection events and recipes for safe cleaning solutions, contact:*

#### **Pennsylvania Resources Council**

412.488.7490

[www.prc.org](http://www.prc.org)

*or*

#### **Southwestern PA Household Hazardous Waste Task Force**

412.488.7452

[www.swpahhw.org](http://www.swpahhw.org)

## **Did you know**

... Of the 160,000 calls the ASPCA's poison control center received last year, 40% pertained to situations involving HHW.

... Like humans, chemicals can enter an animal's body via mouth, skin, eyes or nose.

... Unlike humans, pets can also ingest dangerous chemicals while grooming (licking fur or paws after coming in contact with toxic substances).

... The majority of poisonings in dogs and cats occurs via ingestion (eating hazardous materials or grooming after contact with such substances).

... The majority of poisonings in birds occurs via inhalation (breathing fumes, smoke and odors).

... Fish are at risk when particles from aerosol flea products (used in households that also include dogs and cats) settle in the water of fish tanks.

... Dogs and cats are attracted to the sweet taste of antifreeze, which can be fatal in even very small quantities.

... In addition to HHW, numerous other substances pose potential dangers to pets, including, but not limited to: human medications (e.g. ibuprofen, acetaminophen, cold medications and dietary supplements), foods (e.g. chocolate, grapes, raisins, onions, sugar-free candies and gums, macadamia nuts and uncooked dough), lawn products (e.g. cocoa mulch) and poisonous houseplants (e.g. philodendron, mistletoe, dieffenbachia, golden pothos, devil's ivy, Chinese evergreen, Japanese yew, tomato plants and most lilies).

### **EMERGENCY SITUATIONS**

In case of accidental poisoning, contact the following experts 24 hours/day, 7 days/week:

**Pittsburgh Poison Center** (free information)

412.681.6669 or 800.222.1222

*or*

**ASPCA** (fee for information) 888.426.4435

## **Top 10 Tips for Safeguarding Pets**

### **10) READ THE LABEL -**

Read instructions and note expiration dates. Look for words such as "poison" and "danger".

### **9) READ THE INSTRUCTIONS -**

Properly use each product (i.e. a product safe for dogs may not be safe for cats).

### **8) SAFEGUARD PETS FROM PESTICIDES & RODENTICIDES -**

Keep pets away from recently treated areas. Be sure to thoroughly wash off paws before a pet enters the house.

### **7) STORE ITEMS AWAY FROM PETS -**

Seal containers and place them out of the reach of pets. Use trash cans with lids.

### **6) USE ADEQUATE VENTILATION -**

Be aware of the dangers of toxic fumes (especially when using oven cleaners in the presence of birds).

### **5) USE COMMON SENSE -**

Always think before acting (i.e. remove birds from a room before beginning to paint).

### **4) USE SAFE SUBSTITUTES -**

Purchase safe products — or make non-toxic alternatives at home from items such as baking soda and vinegar.

### **3) BUY ONLY WHAT YOU NEED -**

Estimate the quantity you need...and don't fall for large quantities on "sale".

### **2) TALK TO OTHERS -**

Share this information with everyone who comes in contact with your pet — gardeners, carpet cleaners, house cleaners, exterminators, pet sitters, etc.

### **1) DISPOSE OF EXCESS TOXIC MATERIALS -**

Attend a HHW drop-off event.

Visit [www.swpahhw.org](http://www.swpahhw.org) or call 412.488.7452.