

THANK YOU FOR
BEING A PART OF
OUR FAMILY. MAY YOU
AND ALL YOUR PETS
HAVE A SAFE AND
HAPPY HOLIDAY!

When the weather outside is frightful...

don't forget to watch out for your furry friends.

*Despite their fur coats, winter can be challenging for dogs and cats.
And the heat of summer can also take its toll. Here are a few seasonal
tips to help you protect your pets from extreme weather.*



Winter

- Keep pets inside when the temperature is below freezing.
- For outdoor pets, be sure they have proper shelter and that their water is not frozen.
- After walks in the snow or anywhere that rock salt or other chemical de-icers are in use, be sure to wipe off your dog's legs and belly to prevent them from licking and ingesting those potentially dangerous substances.
- Don't leave your cat or dog in a car during cold weather.
- If your pet gets stuck outside in freezing weather for a long time it may get hypothermia. Signs include a slow pulse, shallow breathing, disorientation, collapse and unconsciousness. If wet, dry your pet thoroughly, and then place warm (not hot) water bottles wrapped in towels around your pet. The ears, paws and other poorly insulated parts of the body may have frostbite; **DO NOT RUB OR APPLY SNOW OR WATER TO THESE PARTS.** Thaw the area slowly and get your pet to the vet as soon as possible.
- Antifreeze is a lethal poison for dogs and cats. Clean up any spills and consider using products that contain propylene glycol instead of ethylene glycol.

Summer

- Walking on hot pavement in summer can cause burns and blisters on your dog's paws.
- Don't leave your dog or cat in a car during hot weather.
- A pet caught in the heat for too long may suffer heat stroke. Signs of heat stroke include the skin being hot to the touch, vomiting, drooling, rapid panting, distress, loss of coordination, collapse and unconsciousness. Cool the head and body with wet towels, ice packs or cold water. Do not immerse the pet in cold water. Small amounts of water to drink may be offered after the pet is cooling down.
- Radiator coolant is also a lethal poison for dogs and cats. Be sure to clean up any spills.



©FRONTLINE, HEARTGARD, the Cat & Hand logo and the Dog & Hand logo are registered trademarks of Merial. ©2010 Merial Limited, Duluth, GA. All rights reserved. HGD10CNSAFETYSSHEET

These tips brought to you by Merial, maker of **FRONTLINE[®]** and **Heartgard[®]**
Plus (ivermectin)

THANK YOU FOR
BEING A PART OF
OUR FAMILY. MAY YOU
AND ALL YOUR PETS
HAVE A SAFE AND
HAPPY HOLIDAY!

While visions of sugar-plums dance in our heads...

our holiday traditions of candy and good cheer may not be so cheerful to our pets.

Food, drink and plants that make our lives special sometimes can be harmful, even deadly, for our four-legged friends.



Dangerous "People" Foods

In 2009, the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center took over 17,000 calls regarding pets ingesting, and being poisoned by, "people" food. Foods that are dangerous for your pet include:

- Chocolates, coffee and caffeine
- Alcohol
- Avocados
- Macadamia nuts
- Grapes and raisins
- Yeast dough
- Raw/undercooked meat, eggs and bones
- Xylitol – a sweetener in many products
- Onions, garlic and chives
- Milk
- Salt

To find out which foods that may be dangerous (or not) for your pet during the holidays and all year-round, visit www.aspcas.org/pet-care/ask-the-expert/ask-the-expert-poison-control/people-foods.html.

Dangerous Plants

Another nearly 8,000 calls were made to the ASPCA regarding pet poisoning caused by common houseplants. Here's the ASPCA's list of the top 17 plants that may harm your pet:

- Lilies
- Marijuana
- Sago palm
- Tulip/narcissus bulbs
- Azalea/rhododendron
- Oleander
- Castor bean
- Cyclamen
- Kalanchoe
- Yew
- Amaryllis
- Autumn crocus
- Chrysanthemum
- English ivy
- Peace lily (aka Mauna Loa peace lily)
- Pothos
- Schefflera

To find out which plants are toxic or non-toxic for your pet, visit the ASPCA's online listing at www.aspcas.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants.

Top Ten Poisons

Surprisingly "people" food and plants aren't the top issues when it comes to pet poisoning. In 2009, the ASPCA Animal Control Poison Center received over 140,000 calls about pets exposed to poisons. Here are the top 10 for 2009:

- Human medications: 45,816 calls
- Insecticides: 29,020 calls
- People food: 17,453 calls
- Plants: 7,858 calls
- Veterinary medications: 7,680 calls
- Rodenticides: 6,639 calls
- Household cleaners: 4,143 calls
- Heavy metals: 3,304 calls
- Garden products: 2,329 calls
- Chemical hazards: 2,175 calls

IF YOU SUSPECT YOUR PET HAS INGESTED SOMETHING POISONOUS, CONTACT YOUR VETERINARIAN OR THE ASPCA'S ANIMAL CONTROL CENTER'S 24-HOUR HOTLINE AT (888) 426-4435. For the ASPCA call, a \$65 consultation fee may be applied to your credit card. For more information, visit www.aspcas.org/pet-care/poison-control/top-10-pet-poisons-of-the-year.html.



©FRONTLINE, HEARTGARD, the Cat & Hand logo and the Dog & Hand logo are registered trademarks of Merial. ©2010 Merial Limited, Duluth, GA. All rights reserved. HGD10CNSAFETYSHET.

These tips brought to you by Merial, maker of **FRONTLINE[®]** and **Heartgard[®]**
Plus (ivermectin)