

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 19 Mar '18
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This week is National Poison Prevention Week and our pets also need protection from accidental poisoning. The [American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Animal Poison Control Center \(APCC\)](#) lists these as their [Top 10 Poison dangers from 2017](#) to pets:

1. Human prescription medications top the list with 17.5% (34,888) cases. Pain medications, antidepressants and heart medications are the most common medications reported to APCC. Accidental ingestion is common but, pet owners giving the wrong medication also occurs.
2. Over-the-counter (OTC) medications made up 17.4% of APCC cases. This group includes vitamins, pain medications (acetaminophen, ibuprofen, and naproxen), herbal supplements, probiotics, antihistamines and cold and flu medications. Pet owners must keep these out of pets' reach and checking with a veterinarian prior to giving an OTC human medication to a pet.
3. [Food](#). People food was 10.9% of cases (21,648) in 2017. Grapes and raisins, onions and garlic (*Allium* sp.), avocados, macadamia nuts, alcohol, raw yeast bread dough and [xylitol](#) all can be dangerous for pets. The popularity of xylitol in sugar-free items like gum and baked goods has continued to keep this group near the top of the list.
4. Veterinary products made up 8.9% of cases seen. Flavored and chewable medications make it easier for our pets to take a pill, but this also means they may eat the entire bottle if they find access to them—leading to a potential overdose and complications.
5. Chocolate toxicity made up 8.8% (17,540) of APCC cases. Dogs in particular are “chocolate fiends,” and with their good sense of smell, they are very good at finding it. Also, the popularity of chocolate as gifts for holidays like Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter only increases the chance for pets to get into it.
6. [Household items](#) including paint, glue, cleaning products & laundry detergent comprised 8.6% of cases in 2017. Proximity to pets' environment is a common reason for exposure. [Laundry pods](#), which made the news this year, are an up and coming danger in this group.
7. Insecticides accounted for 6.7% of cases (13,307). Follow label directions carefully as these products can be dangerous to pets.
8. Rodenticide exposures made up 6.3% of cases in 2017. It's important to remember that rodent poisons can be just as toxic to pets as they are to the pests they're designed to kill.
9. [Plants](#) were 5.4% (10,725) of APCC's cases. Landscaping plants, houseplants and bouquets were all sources of potential problems for pets. Lilies (*Lilium* sp and *Emerocallis* sp.) in particular pose a serious danger for cats, while Sago Palm and Oleander plants continue to be a serious danger for both dogs and cats.
10. Garden products accounted for 2.6% of APCC's cases. Many pets find fertilizers and other gardening-related products irresistible. Make sure your pets are contained when you are working in the garden with herbicides and soil enhancement products.

With any potential dangers and toxins, it is important to keep these things out of paws' reach. While accidents can always happen, the less accessible any of the items are, the less likely your pet is to get into them. To help you stay up-to-date on potential pet toxins or dangers, download the [APCC Mobile App](#) today!

If you suspect your pet has been exposed to any poisonous substances, contact your veterinarian or call [Animal Poison Control Center \(APCC\)](#) at 888-426-4435 immediately.