

How to Puppy and Kitten Proof Your Home

Kittens and Puppies are naturally inquisitive, which can often lead to serious injury. Here are some tips on how you can make your house safer for your new arrival.

That's shocking-young animals love to chew when they're teething. Keep electrical wires out of reach or use a pet -repellent spray. Chocolate can be dangerous it contains theobromine, a powerful stimulant that is toxic to pets. Sweets, cakes, and cookies can also upset a young animal's G.I. tract and lead to diarrhea and vomiting.



TREATS: Never give turkey, chicken or rib bones as a treat. They can splinter and cause serious injury.

HOUSEHOLD KILLERS: Cleaning agents, bleach, ammonia, disinfectants, drain cleaner, oven cleaner, paint, gasoline and rat poison. Keep them locked up.

ANTIFREEZE: Pets are attracted to the odor and sweet taste of antifreeze. Store it high and tightly close all containers. Window washing fluid also contains antifreeze. Make sure to wipe up any spills right away inside or out.

POISONOUS PLANTS: These include lilies, philodendron, dieffenbachia, elephant ears, eucalyptus, spider plants, azalea, ivy, amaryllis, pyracantha, oleander, boxwood, Jerusalem cherry, and plant bulbs. Also if you treat your lawn keep pets away. Read and follow directions carefully.

COLLARS: Puppies and kittens grow rapidly. Collars and harnesses can be rapidly outgrown. This can lead to serious wounds. Also remove collars when puppies are in crates.

PERSONAL ITEMS AND MEDICATIONS: Cosmetics, shampoos, skin care, hair dyes and perms, depilatories, suntan lotion, sleeping pills, antihistamines, aspirin, and acetaminophen can all be lethal to pets.

OTHER HOUSEHOLD ITEMS: Don't leave plastic bags out inquisitive young animals especially kittens can suffocate. Watch out for hot irons, coffee pots and space heaters. Both kittens and puppies will suddenly be able to jump to new heights. Always use a fireplace screen. Keep holly, mistletoe and especially Christmas tree tinsel out of reach.

SUMMER: Keep covers on hot tubs and pools. Always keep an eye on your pet around the pool as they may not know how to get out. Always have fresh water on those hot days.

RULE OF THUMB: If any or all of something will fit in the mouth it's dangerous. Watch out for cigarette butts, rubber bands, balloons, sewing needles, thread, string, ribbons and yes-even pantyhose, since what goes in must come out. Which a lot of times calls for surgery.