

Helpful Hints For Keeping Your Pets Safe From Poisons

When it comes to poison proofing a home, lots of people might assume it's only necessary for homes with young children.

But homes that have pets, be it a friendly feline or man's best friend, need to be safe as well.

Keeping pets safe from poisons is especially important since many pets spend much time at

home alone.

While you're at work, for example, a pet likely has free reign over the home, leaving open the possibility of all sorts of unsupervised trouble.

To poison-proof your home for pets, consider the following tips.

· Know your poisonous plants. Plants are a major poison hazard

for pets, be it cats or dogs.

For dogs, poisonous plants can include azaleas, morning glory, oleander, and even daffodils.

For cats, the list includes geraniums, primrose, iris, and marigold. Consult a veterinarian for a complete listing of potentially poisonous plants.

If you have any of these plants

in your home, be sure they are elevated to a height that a dog cannot reach and away from anything that a cat could climb onto.

· Lock all kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Typically, cleaners are kept in the cabinets below the sink in bathrooms and kitchens.

A resourceful pet can get into such cabinets if they're not locked.

Unfortunately, many cleaning products can be lethal to pets if ingested. Be sure to lock all cabinets where cleaning products are kept.

In addition, whenever you use these products, close the door and keep pets out while doing so. Don't spray any product into the air while a pet is in the room.

· Keep the toilet lid closed. While it can be comical to imagine a dog drinking from the toilet, it can also be very dangerous.

That's because automatic toilet cleaners contain chemicals that can make pets very sick.

Always close the toilet lid whenever you've finished using the bathroom.

· Keep intentional poisons away from pets. Sometimes, homes with pets get unwanted guests.

If your home has mice or other rodents, be sure to keep all rodenticides out of a pet's reach. Also, even if you do place a rodenticide in a location your cat or dog can't reach, that doesn't mean they won't necessarily be exposed to it.

That's because rodents can transport these poisons to a different location in your home.

Before deciding on a rodenticide, first determine if it's worth the risk you're putting your pets at should they be exposed.

The same rules apply to insecticides as well. If you suspect

an insecticide could be harmful to your pet, consult your veterinarian.

· Do not leave batteries lying around. Pets, especially dogs, love to chew on household items.

Batteries left out can be very harmful and even lethal to pets if they chew on them.

Keep batteries in closed drawers and make sure any batteries that have been discarded are not placed in trash cans that don't have a closeable lid.

· Keep your garage and driveway clean. A car that leaks fluids is not only bad for your wallet, but can be very harmful to your pet as well.

Keep your driveway and garage as clean as possible, and thoroughly and immediately clean up after any leaks.

Products such as windshield washer fluid, antifreeze, and motor oil should be stored high on shelves in the garage.

· Keep lawn products away from pets.

Many dogs love to eat lawn fertilizer, oddly enough. Keep bags tightly sealed and stored in a place that's difficult for dogs to get to.

In addition, keep dogs away from the yard after herbicides have been applied.

Allow time for the herbicides to dry before sending your pet out in the backyard.

Public Meeting Held On Sewage Issue

Continued from front page

this was very unlikely.

The amendment would lower the maximum application rate of Class B sewage that could be applied to the permitted area. The area in question is the Duncan Ranch along the Colorado River near 90A.

Many residents of the area were on hand to speak against the application of the sewage. They showed concern about water contamination, odor, and other issues saying that they did not believe the substance is safe.

A question raised was how the sewage is treated and what exactly is Class B sewage.

Jonathan Hill, a representative for Synagro, said that the sewage is obtained already treated by

various sewage treatment plants, including the City of Houston.

He said that those facilities are regulated by the TCEQ and they set the standards for the sewage.

He indicated that Class B sewage is 99 percent free of pathogens and that after application the remaining pathogens are destroyed.

The TCEQ representative confirmed the number given by Synagro.

One of the questions raised was monitoring of applications rates. Several citizens raised the issue.

The TCEQ said that Synagro is required to keep detailed information on application rates and that

the information is made available to the public.

Citizens were uneasy that Synagro was responsible for reporting and that they wanted to know how the TCEQ can tell if they are over dumping.

Hill also noted that the owners of the application site are willing participants in the program.

Residents from the area are also concerned about contamination of wells and the Colorado River.

Hill said that the permit for the application strictly stipulates no discharge, meaning that contamination would be a violation.

Alvin Thomas, a lawyer with Synagro, said that if wells were contaminated that Synagro would be responsible for it, and for any

one harmed.

He said that the Environmental Protection Agency has deemed the application safe. He said that Synagro was very confident that it is not harmful and said that studies indicated that long-term sewer plant workers showed no signs of harmful effects from being around raw sewage.

One individual indicated that the area in question tends to flood during heavy rains and said that the buffer areas designed to protect the river and other sensitive areas would not be effective.

When asked why the company had settled a lawsuit against them that alleged ammonia build-up inside a home, caused by sewage application resulted in the death of an individual.

Thomas said that despite having science on their side, that it was better for the company to settle the matter out of court. He said that there were other houses closer to the application site and that the amount of ammonia that would be needed to kill someone was very high.

Residents also raised concern about the smell of the material.

Hill said that it did have an odor, but generally would go away within a few weeks after application is completed.

An individual asked if the TCEQ had looked into the effect application sites have on property values. The TCEQ representative said that they are not allowed to consider property values when making decisions on application permits.



Another team at the Annual Relay For Life, held in Weimar last weekend, shows off their spirit.

EAGLE LAKE WEATHER REPORT

Information Courtesy of Texas A&M University System Agricultural Research and Experiment Station, Eagle Lake

Date	Temp (H/L)	Rainfall(in.)
Mon. 4-14-08	75/39	0.00
Tue. 4-15-08	76/43	0.00
Wed. 4-16-08	78/53	0.00
Thu. 4-17-08	81/50	0.95
Fri. 4-18-08	72/49	0.00
Sat. 4-19-08	82/52	0.00
Sun. 4-20-08	80/68	0.00



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