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HOW TO PUPPY AND KITTEN PROOF YOUR HOUSE



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

They'd die for some chocolate- Chocolate can be dangerous. It contains theobromine, a powerful stimulant that is toxic to pets and can cause death. Sweets, cakes and cookies can also upset a young animal's GI tract and lead to diarrhea and vomiting.

Keep a lid on it- With a keen nose for food, puppies will investigate the trash looking for scraps. Make sure the trash receptacle cannot be tipped and has a lid to keep pets out. Dispose of meat bones and leftovers in outside bins to minimize the desire.

Common household killers- Cleaning agents, bleach, ammonia, disinfectants, drain cleaner, oven cleaner, paint, gasoline, rat poison. Keep them locked up.

Check the antifreeze- Pets are attracted to the odor and sweet taste of antifreeze. Store it high and tightly sealed, wiping up any spills on the garage floor. Window-washing solutions also contain antifreeze. And remember, engine warmth promotes catnaps, so honk your horn to wake pets under the hood.

Killer house plants- Poisonous plants include lilies, philodendron, dieffenbachia, elephant ear, eucalyptus, spider plants, azalea, ivy, amaryllis, pyracantha, oleander, boxwood, Jerusalem Cherry and plant bulbs.

Keep off the grass- If you treat your lawn with chemicals, keep pets away. Read and follow label directions carefully.

It fit yesterday- Puppies and kittens grown rapidly. Collars and harnesses can be rapidly outgrown, leading to serious wounds and strangulation.

Take care of personal care items and medications- Cosmetics, shampoos, skin creams, hair "perm" solutions, depilatories, suntan lotions, sleeping pills, antihistamines, aspirin and acetaminophen can all be lethal to pets.

It's not a toy- Don't leave plastic bags out. Inquisitive young animals, especially kittens, can suffocate.

The heat is on- Watch out for hot irons, coffee pots, space heaters and fireplaces. Kittens and puppies will suddenly be able to jump to new heights.



A dip tip- Keep covers on hot tubs and swimming pools. Kittens and puppies can fall in and not be able to get out resulting in drowning.

'Tis the season- Keep holly, mistletoe, poinsettias and especially tinsel out of reach.

If you can't stand the heat- Neither can your pet! Florida weather can cause heat stroke quickly. Never leave your pet outdoors unattended for long periods of time, especially in the summer. Make sure they always have access to shade and water.

Do you eat with that mouth?- Rule of thumb: If any or all of something will fit in a mouth, it's dangerous. Watch out for cigarette butts, rubber bands, balloons, sewing needles, thread, string, ribbons and yes, even underwear and pantyhose. What goes in must come out, often via surgery.