

OVER THE COUNTER DRUGS TOXIC TO PETS

NSAID's: **ASPRIN** (plain and buffered), acetaminophen (**Tylenol™**), naproxen, phenylbutazone, and ibuprofen (**Advil™ & Nuprin™**). Two regular aspirin or Acetaminophen can poison a cat or dog. They cause heart failure, liver failure, dehydration, diarrhea, diabetes mellitus, urinary obstruction, or kidney disease. . Symptoms of ibuprofen & Acetaminophen toxicity include digestive upset, bloody stool, depression, staggering, increased thirst, increased frequency of urination, liver disease, kidney disease, seizures leading to death. Many prescription and over-the-counter brands of analgesic and antipyretic drugs contain acetaminophen or its ethyl ether, phenacetin. Examples are **Tylenol, SineAid, SineOff, Anacin-3, Comtrex, Daytril, Nyquil, Allerest, and Vanquish.**

ANTI-HISTAMINES AND DECONGESTANTS (PSEUDOEPHEDRINE, CONTACT, BENADRYL, CHLOR-TRIMATON, etc.) These drugs can cause depression, , hyperexcitability, , vomiting, fever, muscle tremors, rapid or depressed heart rates, disorientation, and seizures.

PEPTO-BISMOL: Many analgesic, anti-inflammatory, antipyretic, and antidiarrheal (Pepto-Bismol) agents that contain salicylates are sold as OTC preparations. Some keratolytic products contain salicylates. Toxic & fatal signs may be seen at doses of Pepto-Bismol >7 mL/kg/day in dogs and cats. Two tablespoons of PeptoBismol contain the salicylate equivalent of one 5-grain aspirin tablet

CHOCOLATE (THEOBROMINE) AND CAFFEINE POISONING: Cooking, baking, candy, landscaping (with cacao shells), white chocolate (negligible amounts of theobromine), sweetened milk chocolate (1/10 the amount of theobromine as found in unsweetened chocolate, approximately 45 to 60 mg/oz), semisweet or dark chocolate contains 130 to 185 mg/oz. Unsweetened (baking) chocolate (450 mg/oz), cocoa powder (150 to 600 mg/oz); coffee, tea, soft drinks.

HORMONES: These are often found in homes to treat many different human problems, but for some reason, owners seem tempted to give these medications to their cats. Dosages for most all hormones are so radically different and require such specificity of diagnosis that one should be encouraged to resist any temptation to give a hormonal medication to a cat.

IBUPROFEN: (Motrin, Advil, Nuprin, Vick's DayQuil), phenylbutazone (Bute, Butazolidin), naproxen (Naprosyn, Aleve), indomethacin, piroxicam (Feldene).

WORMERS: over-the-counter wormers cause weakness, staggering, difficulty breathing, vomiting, tremors, seizures and death.

PHOSPHATE ENEMA (FLEET): These enemas can cause serious electrolyte disturbances and cause death within an hour or two of administration.

