

# Spring 2020

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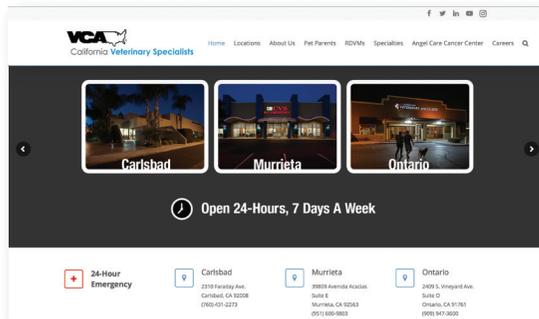
## **POISON** Awareness

See inside for the lesser-known toxins that consistently send pets to the emergency room.



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 California Veterinary Specialists



# California Veterinary Specialists



## Spring 2020

Welcome to **The Scoop** – a newsletter to inform you of the latest news and offerings from VCA California Veterinary Specialists.

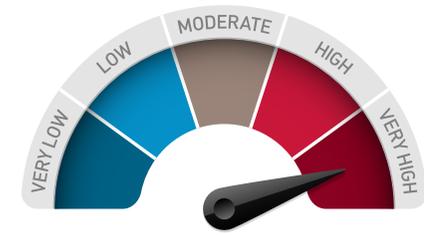


# POISON

# Awareness

Note the following items and their toxicity rating for pets.

Seek emergency veterinary care if your pet has ingested any of the following.



**Toxicity Scale**



## Sugar-Free Foods (Xylitol)

The artificial sweetener found in many sugar-free products including **peanut butter**, gum, candy, and children's medications.



## Snail Bait (Metaldehyde)

This bait is sweet and specifically designed to be attractive to animals. Dogs will tear open bags to get to it. Toxicity depends on the dose ingested.



## All Lilies from flower arrangements

All parts of the plant are toxic to cats.



## Death Cap Mushrooms (Amanita phalloides)

These mushrooms tend to grow under Oak Trees and can be found throughout North America, including California.



## Pharmaceutical Medications and OTC Medications

The toxicity of ingested OTC medications depends on the specific medication and quantity ingested. The higher the dose, the more severe the toxicity.



## Recreational Substances

Drugs like marijuana and methamphetamine are toxic for pets. The toxicity level depends on the substance and dose ingested. Marijuana causes significant clinical signs but has a low potential for organ damage or death. Methamphetamine is highly toxic.



## Dog Specific Flea Medication Applied To Cats

Do not apply your dog's flea medication on your cat even though it may seem like a good idea. Cats who have been in contact with canine flea medication need treatment but are likely to survive and resume a healthy life if decontaminated.



## Gopher Bait (Zinc Phosphide)

Ingested gopher bait, and other rodenticides, mix with stomach acid and produces phosphine gas. Phosphine was used during WWI as a poison gas for chemical warfare. It even places all treating staff at risk when the chemical is vomited.



## Moldy Food (Tremorgenic Mycotoxin)

Certain molds that grow on old food can trigger seizures in dogs. Dogs typically find the food by eating from a trash can or compost pile.



## Bufo Toads

The Colorado River toad (*Bufo alvarius/Incilius alvarius*) is found in parts of California. The toxins produced on the toad's back can be rapidly absorbed into the bloodstream after ingestion or mouthing of the toad. Toxicity is mild if the toad is only licked and more severe if the toad is chewed/ingested. Symptoms can range in severity from GI upset to cardiac arrhythmias and seizures, leading to death.



## Aloe Vera

Aloe vera can cause vomiting, lethargy, and diarrhea.



## Sago Palms

Sago Palms, in both cats and dogs, can trigger vomiting, increased thirst, liver damage and or liver failure, and even death.



## Fertilizers, Herbicides or Insecticides

If treating lawns or gardens with fertilizers, herbicides, or insecticides, make sure your pet avoids those areas until completely dry.