

TIP OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH

March is the month we celebrate St. Patrick's day, and in Las Vegas, March can be the start of spring time weather. Here are a few tips and reminders to keep your pets safe, happy and healthy.

Some people celebrate St. Patrick's day by having a party. If you plan on inviting guests to your home, remember your pets may prefer to be left alone in a quiet room or outside away from the noise and strangers. Don't give any alcohol to your animals and limit human food treats.

This is a good time of year to make sure your house is a poison-safe one.

If you plan on treating your lawn or garden with fertilizers, insecticide or herbicides, always keep pets away from the treated area until it is completely dry. Always store these types of products in an area that will ensure no possible pet exposure.

Be aware of the plants you have in your house and in your pet's yard. The ingestion of azalea, oleander, mistletoe, sago palm, or Easter Lilly, can be fatal.

Never allow your pet to access the area where cleaning agents are stored. Some products may only cause mild stomach upset while others can cause severe burns of the tongue, mouth and stomach and still others are fatal.

Never give your pet any medications unless under the direction of your vet. Many medications used for humans, can be deadly if ingested by an animal.

All automotive products such as oil, gas and antifreeze should always be stored away from pet access. As little as one teaspoon of antifreeze may kill an animal.

Take a few minutes and check your pets' toys and make sure they haven't worn out or broken. Pets can choke on small parts that may come loose and get swallowed during play.

Sticks and bones can splinter and cause choking or vomiting, or they can perforate the mouth, throat or intestine. Hard bones can easily damage teeth. Instead use hard non-splitting chew toys to play fetch or to allow your pet to gnaw on.

Superballs can cause intestinal obstruction if ingested. Other types of balls, such as tennis balls or golf balls, may be too small for the dog and can cause choking.

Clothes, towels and similar items can be swallowed and can cause intestinal problems. This is also true of rawhide and some rawhide is preserved with arsenic, which is toxic.

Most importantly, and the biggest toy hazard, are toys that are inappropriately sized for the pet.

Generally the toy that is too small for the pet is one which can be destroyed and swallowed.