

PUPPY PROOF YOUR HOME

Puppies are naturally inquisitive little balls of fur. If your house is not used to accommodating a puppy, this inquisitiveness can lead to injury or even death. Below are a few tips to make your home safer for your new arrival.

That's Shocking – Puppies love to chew, so make sure that all electrical cords are hidden or use bitter apple spray to discourage chewing.

Hot Spots – Watch out for heaters, clothes irons, curling irons and the hot oven door when you open it. You don't want your puppy to learn about burns the hard way.

It's Not A Toy – It is obvious to you that a plastic bag is no toy, but puppies love the crunchy sound and chewy texture. Keep things that can possibly suffocate out of your puppy's reach.

But, It Fit Yesterday! – Puppies can grow very fast. Make sure your dog has not outgrown the collar he has on now.

Killing With Kindness – Never give turkey, chicken or other small, brittle bones to your dog. They can splinter and cause serious injury.

He Would Die For Some Chocolate – Chocolate contains theobromine, a powerful stimulant that is toxic to animals. Excess sweets of any kind can also cause diarrhea and vomiting.

What A Killer House! – This is quite literal for little puppies. Secure all cleaning products away from your pup. Bleach, ammonia, toilet cleaners, drain cleaners, oven cleaners and rat poisons can all be deadly. Some common houseplants are poisonous to your new pet. Philodendron, lilies, dieffenbachia, azalea, eucalyptus, elephant ear, spider plants and pyracantha are all poisonous (see the attached plant list). During the holidays, keep poinsettia, mistletoe and Christmas tree tinsel away from your pets. Personal care items can also be dangerous. Sleeping pills, antihistamines, aspirin, acetaminophen and all sorts of creams and lotions can be lethal to a small puppy.

There are dangers outside the house also. You probably know that antifreeze is very dangerous to your pets. There are now safe antifreezes on the market. Be aware that common lawn products are also quite dangerous. Keep your dog out of any areas that have recently (within 3 or 4 days) been fertilized or treated for weeds. Remember that animals are much closer to the ground and can come into contact with all sorts of chemicals on your lawn.

Taking A Dip – Keep swimming pools and hot tubs safely covered. Many pets have been known to drown in these. No one needs a tragedy like that.

What A Big Mouth – Follow this rule of thumb. Anything that will fit into your puppy's mouth might eventually end up there. Take care of string, coins, ribbons, rubber bands, balloons, sewing supplies, small game pieces, paper clips, pens and pencils, fishing supplies and small balls. These are things that might just find their way through your puppy's digestive system but might just need surgery to remove.

ALPHA CANINE ACADEMY LLC (970) 382-5937