

ON GIVING MEDICATIONS

Put your thumb and forefinger on each side of the dog's mouth. Gently squeeze until the dog's mouth opens, pop in the pill and hold the dog's mouth closed.

Retrieve the pill from the floor, and the dog from underneath the table.

Kneel on the floor with the dog firmly wedged between your knees. Get your spouse to hold the dog's head firmly with one hand, whilst forcing a wooden ruler into the dog's mouth. Drop the pill down the ruler and firmly massage the dog's throat.

Retrieve the dog from behind the sofa and get another pill. Make a note to repair the sofa later.

Get your spouse to wrap a blanket around the dog leaving only his head visible. Put the pill into the end of a drinking straw. Force open the dog's mouth and blow into the straw vigorously.

Check the label to make sure that the pill is not harmful to humans. Apply a Band-Aid to your spouse's forearm and remove the blood from the carpet.

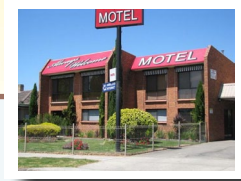
Place the dog in the cupboard with only his head out. Jam the door on his neck. Force the dog's mouth open with a spoon and flick the pill down the dog's throat with a rubber band.

Fetch a screwdriver from the garage and replace the cupboard door. Apply a cold compress to your cheek and check the date of your last tetanus shot. Throw away your torn T-shirt and get a new one from the bedroom.

Tie the dog's front paws to his rear paws and bind them tightly to the leg of the dining table. Get your heavy-duty pruning gloves from the shed. Force the dog's mouth open with a small spanner. Push the pill down the dog's throat, followed by a pound of steak. Hold the dog's head vertical and tip a liter of water down his throat.

Get your spouse to drive you to the emergency room. Sit quietly while the doctor stitches your fingers and forearm, and removes the remains of the pill from your right eye.

Stop by the vet's on the way home and arrange for a house call. □



Stress-Free Hotel Stays:

Pet Friendly Hotel Etiquette & Tips

More and more pet parents are deciding to bring their pets along when they travel. For many, this means staying at a pet friendly hotel or other type of pet friendly accommodation. It's important to make sure that you and your pet are prepared. Following some simple tips will help to ensure that your hotel stay with your pet is an enjoyable one...and that you BOTH are welcomed back!

Pick the Right Room

It's recommended to book a room on the ground floor and by an exit. This will make it much easier for you to take your pet out for bathroom breaks.

Use Designated Potty Area

Upon check-in, ask the innkeeper or front desk personnel where the designated dog potty area is. Make sure you adhere to their rules of where to let your dog relieve himself. And of course, always bring along poop bags and clean-up after your pet.

Tucker them Out

Be sure to exercise your pet. Exercise helps relieve anxiety, thereby making for a more calm pet. Ask hotel personnel about the best places to walk or run your pet.

Treat the Hotel Room with Respect

This means covering any furniture and beds that your pet may be allowed on. If the pet friendly accommodation does not allow pets on furniture, abide by their rules.

Litter Box Placement

If traveling with a cat, place their litter boxes in the bathroom. This will make clean-up much easier.

Leave them Alone?

Some pet friendly accommodations will allow you to leave your pet alone in your room. Our advice is not to leave your pet unattended unless absolutely necessary. Even the best behaved pets can bark and become destructive when in new surroundings. If you must leave your pet alone, be sure that it's for a very short time. Alert the front desk or innkeeper that your pet is alone in the room and try putting on the TV or a radio to make your pet more comfortable. If your pet travels with a crate or kennel, place them in it when leaving the room. In addition, place a note on your door indicating that your pet is in the room.

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(“Stress-Free Hotel Stays...” cont.)

Don't Leave any Pests Behind

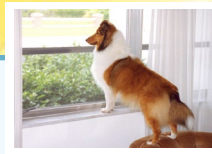
Before leaving home be sure to give your pet a good cleaning and de-flea and de-tick them. This means a good flea and tick bath along with utilizing preventative flea and tick control. Leaving behind a stinky smell, or worse, fleas or ticks is the kind of thing that makes accommodations change their pet friendly policy. In addition, if a deposit is required, these types of things could very well prevent you from getting it back.

Accidents Happen

Even pets that have never had an “accident” indoors may do so under stress. Bring along a disinfectant as well as a rag in the event that you have to clean up after your pet. Not doing so could also cause a loss of deposit.

Keep them Leashed

To ensure that you're welcomed back, keep your pet on a leash and avoid taking them into dining areas or other restricted areas. Following some common sense rules will help ensure that your pet has a happy and safe trip. □



7 Tips To Comfort Pets With Separation Anxiety

It's not just our kids that experience back-to-school blues after summer vacation—did you know that pets could be affected, too?

Any big change in routine can cause separation anxiety in pets. It's estimated that 20% of the 80 million dogs in the country are actually affected by separation anxiety. That number actually goes up with senior dogs—up to 29-50% are affected.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY PET HAS SEPARATION ANXIETY?

Watch For Behavior Changes In Three Key Areas:

1. “The first is improper urination or defecation in the house that's not associated with puppy or kitten training,” says Purina veterinarian Dr. Kurt Venator.
2. “The second would be excessive barking or howling,” says Venator.
3. “The third that we often see is excessive chewing or destructive behavior in the home,” says Venator.

WHAT CAN I DO TO EASE MY PET'S ANXIETY?

1. Set Up A Rhythm: Once school starts, try to set up a routine. If you can leave and return at the same time every day, that will help your pet adjust to the new rhythm they're experiencing in your house.
2. Schedule Play Time: Set up designated play and engagement time with your pet each day. “This is where appropriate treating can come into play. We want to make sure that we reward the good behaviors that we're seeing and discourage the bad behaviors. And that's where a nice treat here or there, along with verbal, praise can go a long way,” says Venator.
3. Turn Up The Music: To keep your pet engaged throughout the day, leave some music on when you leave the house.
4. Stimulate Your Pet With Puzzle Games: A great way to reduce ↗

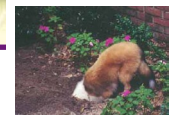
(“7 Tips to Comfort Pets...” cont.)

anxiety during the day is to use puzzle feeders to keep your pet mentally stimulated. Pour half of your pet's recommended daily amount of food into the puzzle feeder each morning and then refill again in the evening. Your pet will spend the day playing and keeping active.

5. Try A Game Of Hide-And-Seek: Another option is to separate the daily amount of dry food into small bowls and hide them around the house. “Measure out the right amount that you want to feed everyday and then divide out little portions of that into little quantities hidden around the house,” says Purina veterinarian Dr. Zara Boland. This game of hide-and-seek with the food is particularly helpful for cats as it causes prey-stimulating behavior that will keep them busy and active throughout the day.

6. Have To Leave Suddenly? If you don't have time to prep a cognitive game for your pet before you leave the house, try a long lasting treat like the Busy Bone to keep your dog stimulated.

7. Get Moving: Exercise can help reduce the anxiety of a new routine. Take your dog for a walk or play an interactive game with your cat to get your pet moving. □



How to Stop Your Dog From Digging Up Your Yard!

Most dogs love to dig holes. It is part of their behavioral make up as they don't see digging holes as bad behavior. And, of course, the first place your dog will start to dig is your backyard. It is important to stop your dog from digging right away or he or she is likely to continue doing it!

Determine why your dog is digging

Try to determine why your dog is digging in the first place. Your dog may just like it or he might be bored and looking for attention. He could also be trying to dig his way out of the yard. Dogs can be attracted to digging in fresh dirt, mulched dirt or fertilized dirt. He could be trying to dig a den a hole for shelter, especially in hot weather. He could also be using the hole he digs as food storage. If you find out the cause, it is easier to determine how to stop your dog from doing so.

Always be consistent in stopping the digging

Be consistent in your training and encourage everyone in your family to do the same. Use positive rein-

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(*"How to Stop Your Dog From Digging..." cont.*)

forcement for good behavior, rather than punishment (as always!) If your dog starts to dig a hole, make sure to give him a warning that this is not the accepted behavior. Bring him inside and if your dog goes outside again and does not dig, reward him or her with a treat or favorite toy.

Avoid dog bones (at least temporarily)

If your dog likes to chew bones and then heads outside to dig them in your yard, it might be time to give up the bones. At least temporarily. Try giving your dog a chew toy instead. Once he stops the digging, you can give him bones, which is he allowed to only eat inside your home.

Keep your dog inside if you work in the garden

If your work outside in the garden, try keeping your dog inside so that he or she does not think your 'digging' is an acceptable behavior. Dogs love to be close by us and your dog just might want to mimic the behavior.

Give your dog an area where he's allowed to dig

If you can give your dog an area where he's allowed to dig, this will be your dog's favorite option. Add soft sand to the designated area. Bury toys and treats in the sand and encourage your dog to dig there. Praise him when he digs in the right spot. Some dogs dig to avoid the heat. If this is your dog's reason for digging, move your dog to a shaded area where he can escape the sun and cool down.

With consistent training and positive reinforcement, your dog should stop digging up your yard!

—PetPav



Bringing Home Your New Pet: How to Pet-Proof Your Home

When a new pet's introduced into a household, it's an exciting time for everyone.

But while every pet adds something fun or interesting to a home, animals can require special care to make sure that they and your home are kept safe. Pets can find many hazards around the home, and because of this, one should know how to properly pet-proof their home before bringing a new furry or feathered member of the family home.

How to Safely Leave Your Pet Home Alone

When pets are left home alone, they can become anxious and upset. As a result, they can act out and behave in a way that's destructive. There are several ways to get pets comfortable with being home alone. They should always be left indoors to protect them from the elements and reduce the risk of being injured or escaping from the yard. Dogs that are crate-trained may be more at ease if they are left crated, as pets that normally sleep in a crate will feel safe there. A crated pet cannot damage the home in

(*"Bringing Home Your New Pet..." cont.*)

any way or injure itself. Another option is to confine one's pet to one room in the home. This provides them with more freedom to move while denying them access to the rest of the house. Regardless of which method is chosen, one should always make certain that their pet has access to food, water, and a favorite toys. If a dog must be left alone for long periods, families may consider hiring a dog-walker to take their pet out in the middle of the day.

Creating a "Pet-Friendly" Zone

The purpose of a pet-friendly zone is to create a space or sanctuary that's specifically for pets. This pet-friendly zone is set up in a way that blocks animals from roaming the rest of the house, using closed doors or a baby gate. It's a place where animals can sleep, move around, and play without risk of damaging the furniture or encountering hazardous materials. In these rooms, keep one or more of the pet's favorite toys and a pillow or some form of bedding. Pet-friendly zones don't have to be only indoors as handy individuals may consider creating an enclosed patio that allows pets to play safely outdoors.

Installing Pet Doors and Eliminating Escape Routes

Pet doors are a good addition to the home for pet owners who want their animals to have the freedom to go outdoors when they want to. When installing a pet door, one should not place food near the opening, as it will tempt unwanted animals to enter the house. And securing one's backyard is important when pets can access it at will. A secure yard is one that has a gate to prevent pets from escaping. Gates should be high enough to keep pets from jumping out. One should also check for any areas where their pet can easily dig their way out.

Keeping Objects Out of Reach of Pets

Objects that can injure pets should be put away or kept in a place that cannot be reached or opened with a paw or nose. This includes items that can be chewed on or that pets can get tangled up in, such as wires or cords that can electrocute or strangle them. Sharp objects that can cut an animal's paws or nose should be stored in drawers. Never leave candles or anything that involves a flame where it can be knocked or nudged over. Choking hazards such as buttons, small toys, batteries, and screws should be kept off the floor and stored properly.

Storing Medicines and Household Toxins

Medicines and household chemicals are toxic to pets and can easily kill them if consumed. For that reason, these substances should be kept closed and stored in a place where animals cannot access them. Bathrooms are often the home of both medicines and products such as bleach or tile cleaner. Store medications in a medicine cabinet and cleaners in a child-proof cabinet, and when possible, keep the bathroom door closed.



Rattlesnake Awareness Training

by David Kelly

It's that time of year to start training your rattlesnake in agility. I was concerned that my dogs might come across a rattlesnake because I live near the foot hills with plenty of wild life and I hike with my two Shelties. Snake season starts in April and last into the late fall. For the most part when I go hiking my dogs stay on the trail or dirt road, but there are times they poke around a bush where a rattlesnake might be hiding. Snake Awareness training teaches your dog to recognize the scent of a snake and to stay far away.

Classes are usually offered by hunting clubs because hunting dogs have to climb through brush to retrieve a bird or to flush out the game. Snake awareness courses can be difficult to find and the level of instruction varies as well. If you are looking for a class to attend ask the instructor if your dog doesn't give a good strong response to avoid snakes at the end of training can you come back in three to four weeks and re-train. Other questions to ask do they use live snakes that are released to crawl around or are they kept in a cage. You want the most realistic setting for the training using live snakes out in the open. If they are used in a cage then your dog will only alert if they are in a cage not out in the wild, and if the instructor is insured and licensed.

I attended a course put on by WD Dog Training (www.vip-dogtrainer.com) with Rusty Debrenceni at Neil Snipes Park in Norco. Your dog will be fitted with a training collar and put on a 20 foot leash. The instructor will take your dog to where the live snakes are and allow your dog to get a good whiff of the snake's scent then give your dog a quick zap on the collar. The instructor then has you handle your dog because you're the one who will be walking your dog out in the country not the instructor.

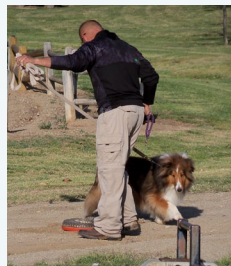


Figure 1.
Ben being introduced to snakes.

The first scenario is to walk along a path and come across a bunch of snakes. The snakes are placed on a plastic bucket lid with a motion activated recording of rattlesnake rattles. Only in Hollywood do the snakes buzz their rattles in the wild the rattles snap off or the snake remains quiet. If your dog doesn't steer away from the snakes the dog is given a quick zap. If the dog wants to steer away you allow your dog to walk away and let out as much of the 20-foot leash as you can. Let your dog get away from the snakes. This is repeated several times from different directions. The next scenario is the wood pile with a fan to blow the snakes scent across the trail. Then a bunch of snakes out in the open grass you drop the leash walk to the other side of the snakes and call your dog. Your dog should go around the snakes and not directly to you. ➔

("Rattlesnake Awareness Training" cont.)



The last event is to place the snakes by your car and see if your dogs will attempt to get in.

Figure 2.
Ben final exam when called by his master.

I trained two dogs that day—Ben and Shiloh. Ben didn't like the snakes even before he was zapped, and he never had to be zapped again. Shiloh started off strong, but during the final test he was a bit absent minded and was zapped several times. The instructor rated Ben as A+ and Shiloh as B. Since Shiloh didn't finish the class with a strong awareness we were invited back in three weeks to do all the training again with both dogs. The instructor recommends putting your dog through snake awareness training one a year for three years.

The training is not that expensive. I paid \$85 per dog. If your dog gets bit and you can find a vet with anti-venom in time the cost is \$3000 to \$4000 to save your dog and as much as \$10,000 to rehabilitate your dog.

To put on snake awareness training for your club WD Dog Training will come to you as long as you have at least six dogs. Training takes 20 to 30 minutes per dog. You will need a park or county setting that you can control. The snakes are milked before the training so there is no poison, for added measure of safety the snakes are muzzles with medical tape so when the tape is removed it doesn't remove their scales. There is an instructor and a snake handler with your at all times.



Figure 3.
(left) snakes at the wood pile;
(right) snakes on top of a speaker.

The most common snakes are Pacific Rattlers their scent can linger for 20 minutes after they have moved on. That means your dog may alert even if there is no snake. Three of the most common rattlesnakes in Southern California are the Southern Pacific Rattler, the Red Diamond and the Panamint Rattlesnakes. All rattlesnakes in California have a blotched pattern on the back and a rattle on the end of the tail which is sometimes missing. Therefore don't assume a snake with no rattle is harmless, and don't assume that snake will warn with a rattling sound before striking. □





Rattlesnake Vaccines and Anti-Venom

by David Kelly

Believe it or not you live in snake country. Snakes prefer to stay away from people and large animal which is why you don't see many of them. There is plenty of urban landscape along the freeways parks, golf courses and hill sides for snakes to flourish. If you have coyotes in your neighborhood you have snakes. To protect your dog from snakes the best thing you can do is train your dog to stay away from snakes in the first place. The second is to locate a veterinarian in your area that has anti-venom at the ready. Some veterinarians suggest vaccinating your dog for snake bites to better prepare your dog's defenses. There is a lot of mixed reviews on vaccines.

First, snakes don't always pump poison into their victims when they bite. Mature snakes have learned to meter out their venom where infant snakes will pump all their venom with their bit. There is a different between a defensive bite and a kill for food. Snakes usually just want to escape and not become someone's dinner. About 25% to 30% of snake bites are dry there is no poison however there is the risk of infection that must be addressed.

The current snake vaccine available is produced by Red Rock Biologics and developed to counter the venom of the Western Diamondback Rattlesnake. It provides no protection against the Mojave Rattlesnake, or the Pacific Rattlesnake two of the other common snakes in Southern California. In California there are 33 species of snakes and six are venomous. That means you have a one in six chance of your dog being bitten by a Western Diamondback.

The manner that the vaccine works is by making the dog generate protective antibodies against the rattlesnake venom, which neutralizes the venom itself. You still need to seek immediate medical help for your dog if they are bitten. The bite will still hurt and there is still no solid data that the vaccines are effective. Red Rock has a disclaimer "safety and efficacy are not proven."

You will need to set up a vaccine schedule for your dog. Start your first shot 30 days before spring then every six months. It takes your dog 30 days to develop antibodies. Some veterinarians recommend the first two shots be given 30 days apart.

So why doesn't the vaccine work on other rattlesnakes? There are three basic types of poisons that snakes have cytotoxins, neurotoxins and hemotoxins. These toxins are derived from 6 to a dozen of the 20 types of known toxic enzymes found in snakes.

Cytotoxins start digesting the prey almost immediately and if your dog survives they can still have major scars or even require amputation of a leg because the damage is so severe. Hemotoxins attack and destroy the red blood cells which carry oxygen to the body causes hemolysis, disrupts blood clotting, and attacks types of cells and tissues followed by organ failure. Neurotoxins basically block control to the heart and lungs and other muscles paralyzing your dog.

If your dog is bitten you will need Anti-venom and it must be given quickly to be effective to neutralize the venom. Remember the venom has already done some damage from the time your dog was bitten to the time the anti-venom is administered. This may require extensive rehabilitation to overcome. ↗

("Rattlesnake Vaccines and Anti-Venom" cont.)

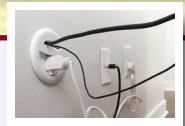
If you do decide to start a program of rattlesnake vaccines do not have believe that your dog is protected. At best it will buy you a little extra time to get your dog to emergency medical care.

What to do of your dog is bitten:

If you come upon a rattlesnake, stop back up go around it. Snakes are more afraid of you then you are of them they will try to flee before fighting. Walking sticks are good to have to thump on the ground snakes are sensitive to sound and vibration and will usually move away. Stay on the hiking trail or dirt road. If your dog has been bitten keep the dog calm carry them if you can to reduce activity. If you dog starts running, then they are pumping the poison around their body faster. Remove the dog's collar, or body harness because tissues will swell, and the collar may act as a tourniquet. Do not do more harm that means don't slice the bite open, or pack it in ice, you can't suck the poison out so don't try.

Here are some websites that might be useful:

- Red Rock — <http://www.redrockbiologics.com/>
- California Fish and Wildlife — <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/news/snake> ☐



Keeping Pets Safe in Your Home

Few things fill our hearts with joy like pets, but there is a flip side to this since we worry about the furry members of our family just as much as we do our own children.

There are certain things that should always be taking into consideration when animals share a house, and this guide will discuss how you can ensure your home is devoid of danger.

General Guidance

If you're bringing a pet into your home, or moving to a new family dwelling, you'll need to ensure that no ill fortune will befall them. Here is some generic advice on how you can keep every member of your family safe, whether they stand on two legs or four.

- American Humane are dedicated to the safety of animals, and they have some great advice on how to keep inquisitive animals (including puppies and kittens) from getting themselves into trouble in the home.
- Family Handyman is a blog that's packed with hints and tips for keeping a home safe for animals.
- Petful have bags of advice on keeping a home safe for a new, non-human arrival.

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(*"Keeping Pets Safe In Your Home" cont.*)

- Animal World go into some detail on all the hazards (be they in plain sight or hidden) that any pet will be able to locate in the home, while the The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) has collated a list of all poisonous chemicals that can be found in the home.

- OVO Energy is a UK-based electrical supplier, but the advice they on keeping pets safe from electrical hazards in the home is truly universal.

- The American Red Cross provides essential information on how to help your pets if there's a fire in your home. PETA, meanwhile, offer guidance to how you can keep your pet safe during a natural disaster.

- Finally, Good Housekeeping magazine summarizes the ways that pets can place risks upon humans.

Room-by-Room Advice

General advice is great, but sometimes you need to be a little more specific. Let's take a tour through each room you'll typically find in a family home, and shine a light on what may be useful for keeping the vulnerable members of our family safe.

Living Rooms and Bedrooms

A living room is usually where an entire family gathers to pass an evening and as an increasing number of families include at least one non-human member, that includes pets. The bedroom, meanwhile, is where a great many pampered pets spend their evenings snoozing alongside them. As a result, it's important to ensure that these spaces are safe for any animals.

- The average living room will host a TV, a stereo, a video game console and other electrical appliances besides. That's a whole lot of cables potentially lying around. If you have dogs, cats, rabbits or small animals, you should ensure that no animals can chew through these wires. Blogger PetsLady has some suggestions on how to hide cables from your four-legged family members, and Apartment Therapy also shares some more general advice on this topic.

- First Tank Guide offers invaluable advice for anybody lucky enough to have a fish tank in their living room.

- You may love your array of indoor plants, but your pet may take a shine to them too since animals explore the world with their mouths, after all. Houseplants Expert has a list of houseplants that are potentially toxic to your pets if they decide to chew on the leaves.

- If you have any breakable heirlooms, you can be sure that a cat will find a way of breaking them. PetCareRx offers advice on cat-proofing anything delicate and valuable within your home.

- When the holidays arrive, your living room is likely to become a winter wonderland filled with festive trinkets and ornaments—all of which will be very tempting for an animal to investigate. VetIQ has a guide to decorating a room and keeping it safe for your pets.

- Your dog may well be cowering in your living room or bed on nights like the 4th of July, when anxiety-inducing fireworks fill the air. British TV personality and canine behavior specialist Victoria Stillwell has advice on combatting the panic that will follow.

- Open windows can be something of a risk for pets; whether that's cats that attempt to leap from a great height, or birds that look to make their escape. If you must keep them open, look into some kind of shield to keep your pets safe. ↗

(*"Keeping Pets Safe In Your Home" cont.*)

Kitchens

We may not spend quite as much time in our kitchens as other rooms in the house, but given half the chance a free-roaming pet would spend all day such surroundings. The smells alone are enough to hold the intrigue of any cat or dog!

Always keep food out of reach of animals, and do what you can to mask any scents by using Tupperware or cling film, and ensure that cabinets that house cleaning supplies are very firmly closed.

- Trashcans can be irresistible to dogs in particular thanks to the smell of food within, and if a canine gets their face into a bin all kinds of trouble could follow as they swallow bones and rotten food. PetMD provides advice on how to pet-proof a garbage vessel.

- If a bin is enticing, just imagine how tempting it must be to try to gain access to a fridge! Thankfully, the blog me has a guide to keeping your snooping pets away from your leftovers and fresh produce.

- Most kitchens will be home to a wide variety of cleaning supplies, many of which will be lethal to animals. Earthesy has compiled a list of the chemicals found in most houses that would cause problems for pets, and suggests alternatives that will be altogether less harmful.

- Leaf & Paw and The Honest Kitchen both warn of any common kitchen herbs that could harm an animal, while Cookware looks into general safety for animals in this room—including pet birds, which often call a family kitchen home.

Bathrooms

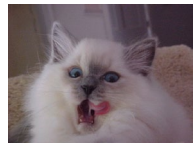
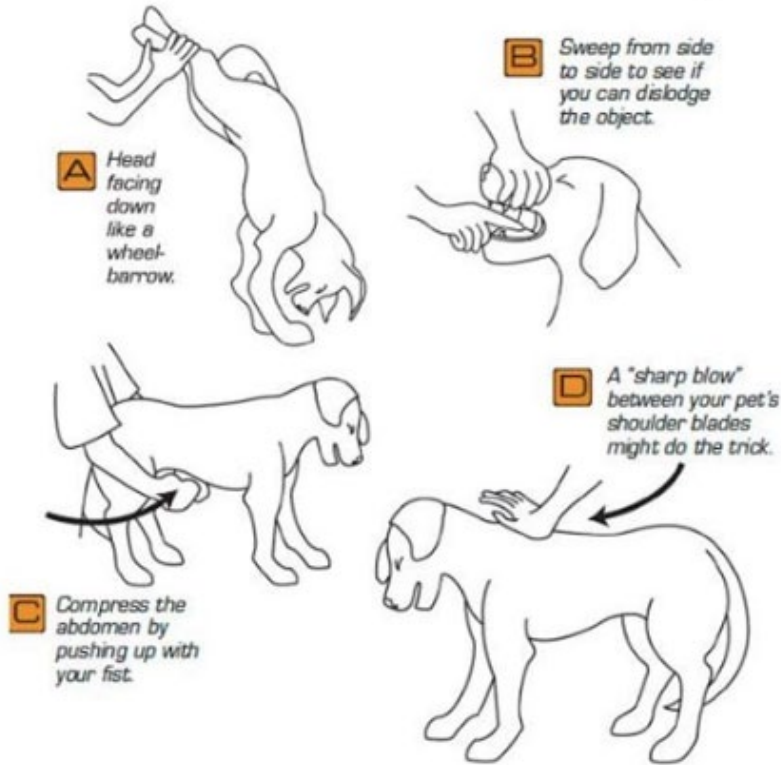
A bathroom is potentially the most lethal room in the house for any curious pet. Razors, medications and cleaning products should all be elevated away from the reach of an animal, and even toothpaste is lethal to dogs due to the toxic presence of fluoride within it. This doesn't even begin to cover some animal's tendency to drink out of the toilet! Keep dental floss away from any animal.

It's best to keep a bathroom door closed as much as possible, as prevention is always better than cure. The truth is, there isn't a great deal that can be done to make a bathroom pet-safe other than keeping critters out of the area, and placing everything that could do them harm as far from their reach as possible. Also follow the instructions laid out for kitchen safety where applicable, such as those connected to cleaning supplies.

— *HouseholdQuotes.co.uk*

Note: To connect to any of these suggested websites, visit — <https://householdquotes.co.uk/keeping-pets-safe/> □

Heimlich Maneuver for Dogs



4 Reasons Your Purrball Is Picky

by The Petcentric Team

Has your cat gotten pickier than usual at feeding time? Here's what may be going on, and how you can help.

Some cats will sprint across the house at the mere sound of kibble meeting bowl, while others require a 47-course tasting menu before deigning to eat their dinner.

Picky eating can be common among cats, but understanding the root of fussy feeding can be the key to unlocking their appetites. Read on for four reasons cats become finicky and how you can help.

1. They don't feel well.

First, rule out any potential medical issues with your veterinarian. Oral health issues, for example, can make eating foods like kibble painful or uncomfortable for your cat. If you notice picky eating paired with weight loss, vomiting, or diarrhea, a trip to the vet is definitely in order.

2. They just want to mix it up.

Some cats will greet the same can of cat food with voracious approval for the rest of their nine lives. Other cats crave more variety. It all goes back to their wild sides.

Cats living apart from humans tend to be hunters, which makes them accustomed to diversity in their diets. Try a variety pack or mixing up flavors and textures the next time you're in the cat food aisle. ↗

(*"4 Reasons Your Purrball is Finicky" cont.*)

3. They need a challenge.

As your cat snoozes peacefully on your pillow, it's easy to forget that her great-great-great-etc. grandparents were jungle cats accustomed to working like crazy just for dinner. The active pursuit of food is instinctive for cats, and sometimes what looks like picky eating is just boredom.

Cats love a challenge, and a great way to appeal to your cat's desire for physical and mental stimulation during feeding is through the use of a puzzle feeder. From ball-shaped toys that release bits of kibble to toys with hidden food stashes, puzzle feeders take many forms. You can even try making one of these simple DIY feeders (<https://www.petcentric.com/articles/care-and-grooming/diy-cat-toys-how-to-make-a-puzzle-box/>)!

4. They're holding out on you.

If you think you're one step ahead of your cat, think again. Sometimes a picky eater is just holding out for something better.

If your cat refuses food and you immediately sweep away the offending kibble for a replacement (or even worse, table scraps) you're effectively teaching your cat, "Hey, if I act like a brat, I'll just get something better!"

In cases like this, the best course of action is to pick a routine and stick to it. Feed your cat twice a day, and don't keep the kibble bowl constantly full. It sounds like a no-brainer, but a hungry cat is much more likely to eat!

Pleasing a picky cat can seem like a puzzle, but with a bit of experimentation, you're sure to discover that missing piece to your own kitty's appetite. ☐

How Kids SHOULD Interact with Dogs

Use common sense.

Be polite and kind to pets



Learn to recognize when your dog is scared or anxious



Play appropriate games with pets, such as:

Fetch



Training tricks (like roll over, shake, beg, etc.)

Walking and running with a dog



Playing hide-n-seek

Always remember:

Supervise all interactions. Accidents can happen in a split second.



Train your dog to associate the kids with positive experiences so he'll be more likely to tolerate your child in case she accidentally interacts inappropriately.



Without realizing it, children may be provoking an animal with their body language and actions!

It is important to teach children the proper way to approach and interact with animals at a young age to keep both our furry friends and our kids

Only TRUE cat lovers will enjoy this...

It's called "Dear Diary":

<https://www.facebook.com/BuzzFeedVideo/videos/1642657955875080/?fref=nf>



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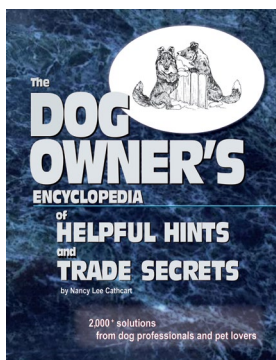
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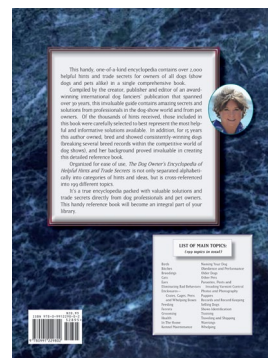
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