



Springtime Safety Tips

Now that Spring has arrived (just look at all the pollen on your car and windows!) it's time for cleaning out closets and garages, starting home improvement projects planting of new gardens and walks in the park enjoying the warm weather. Before you embark on seasonal chores and outdoor fun, take inventory of potential springtime hazards for your furry friends.

Screen Your Windows and Secure Your Doors We love to welcome the breezy days of spring by opening windows as do our lovely cats and dogs. Be sure to install snug and sturdy screens in all of your windows. If you have adjustable screens, make sure they are tightly wedged into window frames. Outdoor temptations can cause pets to jump out the windows at any height, so be sure to do the upstairs too!

Buckle Up! Pets in cars should always be secured in a crate or wearing a seatbelt harness designed especially for them. While dogs love to feel the wind on their furry faces, allowing them to ride in the bed of pick-up trucks or stick their heads out of moving-car windows is dangerous.

Spunky Seniors Take special care with older dogs, whose joints may get stiff in brisk weather, making sure to adjust the length of your walk according to the temperature outside.

Spring Cleaning Be sure to keep all cleaners and chemicals out of your pets' reach. Almost all commercially sold cleaning products contain chemicals that are harmful to pets. The key to using them safely is to read and follow label directions for proper use, storage and disposal.

Home Improvement 101 Confine your dog or cat to a designated pet-friendly room during home improvement projects. From nails to paint and other hazards, it is best to avoid harm to your pet by being proactive and keeping them away from those projects.

Puddles are for Play Puddles are NOT safe drinking water. (cont. page 6)

Chemicals used to melt snow on roadways can work their way into roadside puddles, and puddles on grass may contain garden and lawn chemicals..

Grow Your Garden Fertilizers, insecticides and herbicides keep our plants and lawns healthy and green, but their ingredients aren't meant for four-legged consumption and can be fatal if your pet ingests them. Always store these poisonous products in out-of-the-way places and follow label instructions carefully.

Poisonous Plants Many popular springtime plants—including Easter lilies, rhododendron and azaleas—are highly toxic to pets and can easily prove fatal if eaten. [Check out ASPCA's list \(including photos\) of toxic and non-toxic plants for your home and garden.](#)

UGH! Allergies Just like humans, pets can be allergic to foods, dust, plants and pollens. Allergic reactions in dogs and cats can cause minor sniffing and sneezing as well as life-threatening anaphylactic shock. If you suspect your pet has a springtime allergy, please visit your veterinarian as soon as possible.

Stop Buggin' Me! Make sure your pet is on year-round heartworm preventive medication, as well as a flea and tick control program. Beware of wasps, bees and other flying insects. Some pets think they are toys and could get stung.

Don't forget, you need protection too.

Lost and Found Make sure your dog or cat has a microchip for identification and wears a tag imprinted with your home address, cell phone and any other relevant contact information on a flat collar. Check out EASEL's events page for upcoming low-cost microchip clinics.

Give Your Vacuum a Break Brush your dog and cat twice a day in the spring to control shedding. Spend time brushing your dog outside in the breeze. Don't worry if you don't catch it all as it wafts away: the birds won't mind the downy undercoat to line their nests.

Stay Healthy Now is a good time to make sure your cat's and dog's vaccinations and medications are up to date.