

### ***Human Medications and Pets...***

While most conscientious pet owners are aware of poisons and other potential hazards around the home, many don't realize that several very common over-the-counter and prescription human medications can spell disaster for a beloved pet.

***Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).*** Topping the list of human medications that can get into the mouths of pets are non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs or NSAIDs. Brand names include Advil, Motrin, and Aleve.

Pets are extremely sensitive to compounds in these medications and can become very ill from even a very small dose. Cats can suffer kidney and liver damage, and any pet that ingests NSAIDs can develop ulcers of the digestive tract.

Symptoms of poisoning include digestive upset, vomiting, bloody stool, increased thirst, increased frequency of urination, staggering, and seizures.

***Acetaminophen.*** Next on the list is another anti-inflammatory called acetaminophen, the most well known of which is Tylenol. Other drugs, including certain types of Excedrin and several sinus and cold preparations, also contain acetaminophen.

Cats are at particular risk from acetaminophen, as just two extra-strength tablets can be fatal. If your dog ingests acetaminophen, permanent liver damage can be the result. And the higher the dose, the more likely that red blood cell damage will occur.

Symptoms of acetaminophen poisoning are lethargy, trouble breathing, dark-colored urine, diarrhea, and vomiting.

***Pseudoephedrine.*** Number three is pseudoephedrine. Pseudoephedrine is a decongestant compound found in a wide range of cold and sinus medications. Many of these preparations contain acetaminophen as well.

Pseudoephedrine and phenylephrine, another decongestant, are highly toxic to pets. A tablet containing just 30 milligrams of pseudoephedrine can cause a small dog to show clinical signs of toxicity, and just three tablets can be fatal.

***Antidepressants.*** If your dog or cat ingests an antidepressant, symptoms can include listlessness, vomiting, and in some cases, a condition known as serotonin syndrome. This condition can cause agitation, disorientation, and an elevated heart rate, along with elevated blood pressure and body temperature, tremors, and seizures.

The drugs Cymbalta and Effexor topped the list of antidepressant pet poisonings in 2013. For some reason, kitties are drawn to these medications, which can cause severe neurologic and cardiac side effects. Other common brand names of antidepressants are Prozac and Lexapro.

***Drugs to treat diabetes.*** If you or a family member takes an oral medication for diabetes, including glipizide and glyburide, you'll want to make sure to keep these medications out of your pet's reach. Diabetes drugs can cause a dangerous drop in your pet's blood sugar levels, which can result in disorientation, lack of coordination, and seizures.

***ADD and ADHD drugs.*** Prescription attention deficit disorder (ADD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) drugs are amphetamines and are very dangerous for pets. Ingesting even minimal amounts of these medications can cause life-threatening tremors, seizures, elevated body temperature, and heart problems. Common brand names include Concerta, Adderall, and Ritalin.

***Vitamin D derivatives.*** Vitamin D derivatives like calcitriol and calcipotriene are used to treat a wide range of human conditions, including psoriasis, thyroid problems, and osteoporosis.

These compounds can be rapidly fatal if ingested by your dog or cat because they cause blood calcium level spikes. Signs of toxicosis include loss of appetite, vomiting, increased urination, and excessive thirst due to kidney failure.

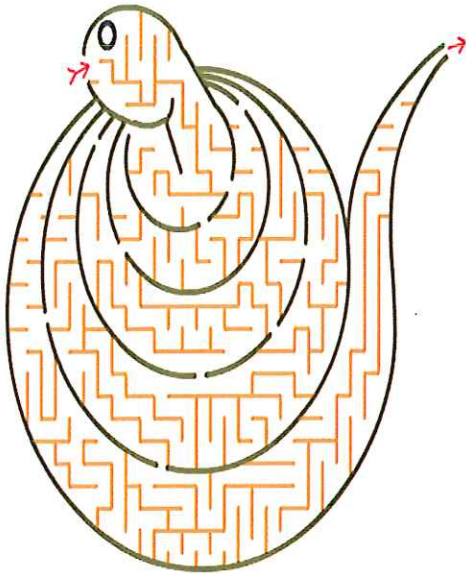
***Beta-blockers.*** Even taken in very small quantities, beta-blockers used to treat high blood pressure can cause serious problems for pets. Overdoses can trigger life-threatening decreases in blood pressure and a very slow heart rate.

***Benzodiazepines and sleep aids.*** Benzodiazepines and sleep aids with brand names like Xanax, Klonopin, Ambien, and Lunesta, are designed to reduce anxiety and help people sleep better. However, in pets, they sometimes have the opposite effect.

About half the dogs who ingest sleep aids become agitated instead of sedated. In addition, these drugs may cause severe lethargy, incoordination, and a slowed breathing rate. In cats, some forms of benzodiazepines can cause liver failure.

*Nearly 50% of all pet poisonings involve human drugs, Pets metabolize medications very differently from people. If your pet has ingested a human over-the-counter or prescription medication, call Pet Poison Helpline's 24-hour poison control center at 800-213-6680 immediately.*

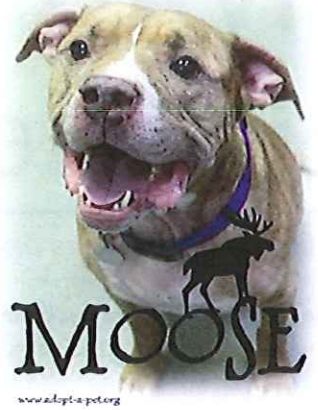
## Snake Maze



## Adopt a Pet Spotlight

**Moose has just one request: plenty of smooches!!! Will you adopt this handsome gentleman? (7 year old Neutered Male Pit Bull mix, 63 lbs)**

**Please contact: Defenders of Animal Rights**



## "Meet our Staff" spotlight is on ... Cathy

Cathy joined HVAH in August of 2012 as a receptionist, becoming the reception manager in September, 2014.

Cathy grew up on a farm in New Oxford, PA and now resides with her husband Jim in Glenville, PA. She has two very accomplished adult step-sons, Adam & Ryan, that she is very proud of.

Cathy & Jim share their home with "Nikki", a black lab that will be celebrating her 11th birthday this month, "Marli", a 6 1/2 year old lab/rottie mix that they lovingly refer to as their "rotten lab", and the baby of the family is "Sydni", a 1 year old mixed breed adopted from the local "Defenders of Animal Rights".

Shortly after joining HVAH, Cathy began studying pet loss grief, and enrolled in a course becoming a certified pet loss grief counselor. Her services are available to the public, including children.



Although very much a warm weather person, she does welcome the fall season as the "Fighting Irish" fan awaits the start of the Notre Dame football season! She enjoys cooking & baking when there is time, and often tries new recipes out on the staff.

As most of the staff have learned, Cathy can be a bit of a prankster. She feels life is too short to be too serious, so she has been known to pull some shenanigans on others. However some have figured out that she scares easily and have retaliated quite a few times.

## The Bearded Dragon ...



1. The scientific name for a bearded dragon is *Pogona Vitticeps*.
- 2 They originate from the "land down -under", Australia.
3. They can grow to 24" in length with a life span of about 10 years.
4. Their "beard" is actually darker colored, spiny skin that puffs out when they feel threatened.
5. Bearded dragons may also make a hand waving motion that looks like a friendly greeting.
6. They eat crickets, wax worms and mealworms. They also like to eat dark leafy greens and veggies.
7. Because of their special needs, they are not the best choice for first time pet owners.

