

FERAL CAT CARETAKERS' COALITION HOW TO KITTEN AND PUPPY PROOF YOUR HOME

Kittens and puppies are naturally inquisitive, which can often lead to serious injury. Here are some tips on how you can make your house safer for the new arrival.

Shocking-Young animals love to chew when they are teething. Keep electrical wires out of reach, securely covered or sprayed with pet-repellent spray.

They'd die for some chocolate...Chocolate can be dangerous. It contains theobromine, a powerful stimulant that is toxic to pets. Sweets, cakes and cookies can also upset a young animal's GI tract and lead to diarrhea and vomiting, which can be serious. Never give turkey, chicken or rib bones as a treat. They can splinter and cause serious injury.

Common household killers...Cleaning agents, bleach, ammonia, disinfectants, drain cleaner, oven cleaner, paint, gasoline and rat poison. Keep them locked up. CHECK THE ANTIFREEZE...Pets are attracted to the odor and sweet taste of antifreeze. Store it high and tightly sealed, wiping up any spills on the garage floor. Window-washing solution also contains antifreeze. Remember, engine warmth promotes cat naps, so HONK YOUR HORN to wake pets who may be under the hood.

Killer house plants... Poisonous plants include lilies, philodendron, dieffenbachia, elephant ear, eucalyptus, spider plants, azalea, ivy, amaryllis, pyracantha, oleander, boxwood, Jerusalem Cherry and plant bulbs, holly and mistletoe. Keep off the grass...If you treat your lawn with chemicals, keep pets away. Read and follow label directions carefully.

It fit yesterday...Kittens and puppies grow rapidly. Collars and harnesses can be rapidly outgrown, leading to serious wounds.

Take care of personal care items and medications...Cosmetics, shampoos, skin creams, hair-perm solutions, depilatories, suntan lotions, sleeping pills, antihistamines, aspirin and acetaminophen can be lethal to pets. Don't leave plastic bags out. Inquisitive young animals, especially kittens can suffocate in a short time..

The heat is on...Watch out for hot irons, coffee pots and space heaters. Kittens and puppies will suddenly be able to jump to new heights. Always use a fireplace screen. A dip tip...Keep covers on hot tubs, swimming pools. Kittens and even young puppies can fall in and not be able to get out. RULE OF THUMB...If any or all of something will fit in a mouth, it is dangerous: Watch out for cigarette butts, rubber bands, balloons, sewing needles, thread, string, ribbons and yes even pantyhose. What goes in must come out, often via surgery.

