

## TRU Rescue Dog Safety Information

Dogs of all ages, from puppies to seniors are a lot like toddlers in that they are very curious – they want to touch, see, smell, taste and hear the world around them. Our world is filled with both “natural” and “man-made” items that you might not think of as being toxic or dangerous to your puppy or dog, but many of them are. The following is a list of some common items & food that can be very dangerous for dogs, and other pets. And just as you would with your child, you will want to keep these items safely out of your dog’s reach. There are also many, useful sites online for additional information. The ASPCA is a great resource.

Should your dog ingest any of these items, or your dog is not acting like its “normal” self, contact your veterinarian, your local Animal ER, and/or:

**ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center Phone Number: (888) 426-4435**

### COMMON HOUSEHOLD HAZARDS FOR PETS:

- Batteries
- Insecticides
- Fertilizers
- Certain plants – See link for full list: [Toxic and Non-Toxic Plant List - Dogs | ASPCA](#)
- Plant Food
- Rat poisons/traps
- Prescription and over the counter medications
- Detergents/household cleaners
- Anti-freeze
- Driveway salt/ice-melt
- Razors/sharp utensils
- Exposed electrical cords
- Any item small enough to be a choking hazard (i.e. pens, pencils, paper clips, jewelry, toys)
- Mothballs
- Tobacco/tobacco smoke
- Kerosene
- String, rubber bands, dental floss
- Feminine hygiene products/band-aids
- Essential oil diffusers, scented candles, air fresheners, incense
- Certain “baby” gates (typically accordion-style)
- Accessible garbage cans
- Toilet water

## FOOD TO AVOID FEEDING YOUR PETS:

See link for more details: [People Foods to Avoid Feeding Your Pets | ASPCA](#)

- Alcohol
- Avocado
- Chocolate, Coffee, Caffeine
- Citrus
- Coconut/Coconut Oil
- Grapes & Raisins
- Macadamia Nuts
- Almonds, pecans, walnuts
- Onion, garlic, chives, leeks
- Raw/Undercooked meat, eggs, bones
- Salt and Salty Snack Foods
- Xylitol and other artificial sweeteners – found in sugarless or low sugar items like gum, candy, certain peanut butters, and toothpaste
- Yeast Dough

## OTHER SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUR PET:

- **CRATING**

- If you plan to crate your dog, make sure the crate is sturdy, has no broken/rusty pieces or bent wires where a dog could get a paw or its neck stuck. **ALWAYS** remove your dog's collar when it is in the crate to prevent the collar and/or tags from getting caught in the wire which could impose a choking hazard.

- **YARD/OUTSIDE ADVENTURES**

- Check your yard regularly for dangerous items/materials that may have been left in the yard or paved areas – tools, toys, glass, metal, ice-melt, etc. AND check if any of the plants in the yard are toxic, including mushrooms. **Never leave your home while your dog is unsupervised in the yard.**

- **Physical Fence:** If you have a **physical fence**, thoroughly and frequently check the fence for loose nails, loose boards, gaps in or under the fence, broken/sharp pieces, broken gates, latches, holes in the ground.

- **Electric/Radio fence:** If you have an **electric fence or radio fence**, assure that the fence is working properly and that there are no breaks; assure that your dog is properly trained on the fence; check the batteries in the collar weekly.

- **No fence:** If you have **no fence** in your yard, your dog should always remain leashed and supervised at all times. The use of tie-outs or cable runs are not advised and can cause serious injury to your dog.

- **Pools/water/boats:** If you have a **pool in your yard, or live on/near the water**, your dog should always be supervised. If they enjoy swimming, they should be taught where and how to get in/out of the water/pool. **A dog-specific life preserver is also highly recommended** for pools, other bodies of water, or if they will be on a boat. Off-season the pool should have a heavy-duty cover that a dog cannot fall through or get caught in.

- **Dog doors:** While dog doors can certainly be convenient to allow a dog to come & go as it pleases, dog doors should only be used into a fenced yard, and while someone is home to supervise the dog.

- **Fenced dog parks:** Free/public dog parks should have an area for small dogs and large dogs. Keep your dog leashed until you have checked that the dog park is safe, and that your dog is comfortable and safe around the other dogs in the park.

- **Walking/Hiking:** Your dog should always be leashed when hiking/walking. The only way to know that your dog (and other dogs) will be safe is if you keep your dog leashed. There are several kinds of collars and harnesses and leashes to use. It is best to consult with a trainer and/or your vet to discuss which one would be best for your dog.

- **CAR TRAVEL**

- Many dogs love car rides so much that you will have to spell the word “C-A-R” to other people so your dog does not get too excited. Whether you are going 5 minutes down the road to your local park, or for a weekend get-a-way, **ALL DOGS SHOULD BE USING A SECURED SAFETY HARNESS, CARRIER or CRATE IN THE CAR.** Statistics show that only 16% of people traveling with their pets secure them in the car. There are lots of resources and websites for information on pet-safe car travel. For your safety and theirs, buckle up your pup! Check out this link: [How to Keep Your Pets Safe in a Car - Consumer Reports](#)