



## Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner

### Pet Poisoning Risks and Treatment



No matter how much we plan or how vigilant we are as pet parents, it's a fact of that life that accidents and emergencies can happen at any time. It's not logical to try to avoid every circumstance that could result in an injury and life would end up very boring for our pets if we

did. The next best way to protect our pets from the unforeseen is to be prepared if an accident or emergency happens.

April is Pet First Aid Awareness Month and this makes it a good time to rehearse first aid and emergency planning for our pets. Seconds count in an emergency, and there may not be time to consult Google before having to take action. Some emergencies will require a veterinarian, and in those cases, a pet parent needs to be knowledgeable on how to stabilize and transport an injured pet. Our blog post [Pet First Aid and Emergency Techniques](#) is a great place to start! The post covers everything from hidden household dangers to your pets to what should be in your pet first aid kit and even basic CPR and Heimlich maneuvers.

One of the most common medical emergencies for our pets is poisoning. Household chemicals, plants, foods, medications, chocolate, paints and paint removers, antifreeze and even sugar free foods, like peanut butter, chewing gum and candy that contains Xylitol can cause a poisoning emergency.

### Health Tip for the Season

Make sure your pet's nails are maintained at a healthy length. Long nails can cause issues with a pet's stance and can lead to issues with balance and worsen joint issues and arthritis.

As well as being a danger to our pets, long nails can be a danger to pet parents too. Long nails can scratch, lacerate and even cause infection.

Our article [Nail Care For Dogs and Cats](#) provides step by step instructions on how to safely groom your pet's nails and an explanation of nail grooming tools.

### Training Tip for the Season

Always get your pet used to wearing a muzzle, even if they don't wear a muzzle on a normal basis. In

It's imperative to know when and how to safely induce vomiting if your pet ingests a toxic substance. Before you induce vomiting, contact your vet, animal clinic or poison control hotline.

If your pet has eaten a food or plant that is toxic to them, induce vomiting with 3% hydrogen peroxide or activated charcoal, given orally.

Never induce vomiting if the pet has consumed caustic materials such as household chemicals, antifreeze or acid. Inducing vomiting in cases of chemical ingestion can cause twice the burns to a pet's esophagus.

Never induce vomiting if your pet is already vomiting.

Never induce vomiting if your pet is showing weakness, confusion, or having trouble walking or standing.

Never induce vomiting at home in pets with a history of seizures, other neurological conditions, heart conditions, recent abdominal surgery, or bloat.

If you think your pet has eaten something poisonous, immediately call a pet poison control helpline.

Poison Control  
ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center  
1-888-426-4435  
\$65 Credit Card Charge  
[www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org)

Pet Poison Helpline  
1-800-213-6680  
\$49 Credit Card Charge  
[www.petpoisonhelpline.com](http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com)

Accidents happen. It's a fact of life. As pet parents the best we can offer our pets is a calm head and the knowledge of how to treat, stabilize and transport our pets if needed.

case of emergency, an injured pet may act out in pain and wouldn't act as they normally do. An injured pet may bite out of pain or fear and it's important to keep everyone safe while stabilizing an injured pet. Always be sure to properly fit the muzzle to the pet and that the muzzle allows proper breathing. Please be aware there are special muzzles for brachycephalic (flat faced) dogs and a normal muzzle could be life threatening if used improperly.

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### **Pet Sitter Tip for the Season**

Every pet parent should have a pet first aid kit readily available in case of emergencies. The linked blog post in our main article lists what items should be in a pet first aid kit. Your pet sitter should be aware of where your pet first aid kit is and be able to easily access it in case of an emergency.

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## Featured Rescue of the Month



## Cross Your Paws Rescue

Cross Your Paws is a foster based rescue group in Irwin Pa. We work closely with PAART(Pittsburgh Aviation Animal Rescue Team) to transport dogs from high-kill shelters in the South and help them find homes in the Pittsburgh area. Cross Your Paws Rescue is driven by a single goal; to save lives. We are doing our part in making the world a better place for all pets. Our decision to start a rescue is not one that we have taken lightly, it has come after years of volunteer work with other groups. Our goal is to make this world a place where starving, abused animals is a thing of the past; That shelters filled with dogs and cats waiting to be euthanized is unheard of. We want euthanasia to be something to help pets on their way to the Rainbow bridge not to end lives because of overpopulation. We vow to save every life that we can. Please help us make this world a better place for every furbaby by donating to our [Paypal](#) or shopping our [Amazon WishList](#).

During the month of March, Comfort at Home Pet Services will be collecting donations of blankets, toys, food, treats and cleaning supplies for Cross Your Paws Rescue. If you have a donation, please mark it Cross Your Paws and leave it out during your Comfort at Home Pet Services visit. If you need to schedule a pick up of items, contact Jen Sybol.

## Featured Pets of the Month

### Sugar and Spice



Sugar and Spice are everything nice! These 8 month old, German Shorthair Pointer mix sisters are very attached to each other and would absolutely love to get a home together!

These sweet sisters are crate trained and up to date on vaccinations. They will take some time to warm up to people but with a little patience and time, they will become very cuddly love bugs!

Being they are young and high energy, they would need a fenced yard with room to run and play! Can you make their dream of staying together a reality?

## Healthy Homemade Treats for the Season

### Peanut Butter and Pumpkin Dog Treats

Ingredients:

2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour  
2 eggs  
1/2 cup canned pumpkin  
2 tablespoons peanut butter  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Whisk together the flour, eggs, pumpkin, peanut butter, salt, and cinnamon in a bowl. Add water as needed to help make the dough workable, but the dough should be dry and stiff. Roll the dough into a 1/2-inch-thick roll. Cut into 1/2-inch pieces.



### Chewy Cat Treats for Cats

Ingredients (50 small cat treats)

1 large egg  
1 4-oz jar chicken and brown rice baby food (or something meaty which may include canned wet cat food)  
1/4 cup parsley, coarsely chopped  
2 teaspoons olive oil  
2 tablespoons water  
1 cup brown rice flour  
1/2 cup cooked white (or brown) rice

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.

In a medium bowl, whisk together egg, baby food (or wet cat food), parsley, olive oil, and water. Add brown rice flour and cooked rice. Stir to incorporate. The mixture will be thick but spreadable.

Spread mixture onto prepared baking sheet creating a rectangle that is about 1/3 of an inch thick. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes.

Remove from the oven. Let rest until cool enough to handle, then slice soft dough into bite-sized pieces. Return pieces to the oven to bake for another 8 minutes. Remove from the oven. Allow to cool completely. Store in an airtight container in the fridge.



[Check out our latest blog posts](#)



Roundworm



Whipworm

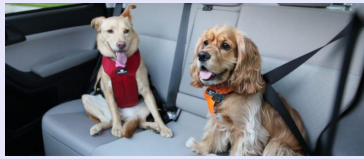


Hookworm



Tapeworm

### Worms and Your Pet



### Safely Traveling In A Vehicle With Pets



### Collar Strangulation