

# What's Harming Your Furry Friends at Home?

# Toxins & Your Pets



## THE HIDDEN DANGERS

Our pets are part of the family and love us unconditionally. However, many pet parents don't realize that many common pet products are full of toxic chemicals that can harm your pet's health. From food and treats to toys and bedding, grooming, cleaning supplies & pest prevention, we encourage you to know the products you use on and around your pet!

Pets are especially vulnerable because they:

- May eat the same food every day
- Spend more time on the floor (where dust and toxins accumulate)
- Chew, lick, and breathe in chemicals from their surroundings

## HEALTH EFFECTS IN PETS

Environmental toxins have been linked to:

- Allergies, itchy skin, rashes
- Hormonal issues and reproductive problems
- Organ damage, liver and kidney disease
- Behavioral changes
- Higher rates of cancer in dogs and cats
- Shorter life spans due to illness or disease



# WHERE THE TOXINS HIDE

## PET FOOD & TREATS

- Many pet foods can contain pesticide residues, antibiotics, synthetic preservatives (like BHA & BHT), artificial colors, and meat by-products
- Some treats are made with glycerin from petroleum(oil), artificial dyes, or even plastic-based coatings

## TOYS & CHEWS

- Many plastic or vinyl toys contain phthalates, BPA, PVC, or lead-based dyes (this includes stuffed animal toys)
- Imported toys (especially from China) may lack safety testing and can release toxic chemicals when chewed
- Squeaky toys and tennis balls can contain glue, lead, flame retardants, and microplastics

## BEDDING & FURNITURE

- Pet beds and cushions are often coated in flame retardants, PFAS coatings (for "stain resistance"), and are made with synthetic fabrics
- These chemicals coatings can off-gas into your home and can be absorbed through your pet's skin or inhaled

## GROOMING PRODUCTS & CLEANERS

- Shampoos, sprays, and wipes may contain synthetic fragrance, parabens, and sulfates
- Household cleaners used near pets can leave behind toxic residues on floors and surfaces
- Some essential oils in cleaning products are harmful to animals

# HOW TO KEEP YOUR PETS SAFE

- Choose clean, human-grade or organic pet food with whole & minimal ingredients
- Avoid toys with vinyl, PVC, synthetic dyes, or artificial scents
- Look for untreated, natural-fiber bedding & toys (made with cotton, wool, hemp or antlers)
- Use gentle, fragrance-free grooming products with pet-safe, non-toxic ingredients
- Make your own whole food treats and pet-safe cleaners
- Minimize pesticides, fertilizers & weed spraying in your home and yard
- Talk to your vet about what food & products are best for your pet!

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- Pet product waste—especially plastic toys & chews, packaging, and synthetic bedding—adds to the global plastic pollution crisis
- Chemical-laden grooming and cleaning products pollute waterways when washed down drains
- Unsustainable pet food production (especially factory-farmed meat) increases carbon emissions, pesticide use, and habitat destruction

**HEALTHY PETS START WITH HEALTHY PRODUCTS & A HEALTHY HOME.**

**CHOOSING CLEAN, TOXIN-FREE OPTIONS HELPS YOUR FURRY FRIENDS LIVE LONGER—AND KEEPS YOUR HOME AND THE PLANET SAFE.**

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