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520-298-3319

Rincon Vista Veterinary Center - Tucson, AZ

by Dr. Gary Bird

## A Dangerous Game: Practical Steps for Pet Proofing Your Home

Even if you've had young pets come home before it is easy to forget that small pets are like small children when you first bring them home. Kittens and puppies are lively and curious, which can get them into serious trouble. Remember that your young pet sees everything from a much lower vantage point than you-like a baby who has begun to crawl-and may be attracted to things you do not see while standing up.

While it's impossible to totally "pet-proof" your home against accidents, here are some recommendations that can help you get a great head start to a happy, healthy pet life and get you to remember to eliminate potentially unnecessary dangers:

- \* Securely store cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, bleach, paint, paint thinner, pesticides, fertilizer, disinfectants, mothballs, roach & rat poisons, medications, and antifreeze. Make sure you keep these in tightly closed areas to which your pet cannot gain access. Keep all cabinet doors closed securely.
- \* Remove poisonous house- plants, or place them in hanging baskets completely out of reach of all pets. Some plants that are poisonous include amaryllis, English ivy, narcissus, dieffenbachia, mistletoe, poinsettia, holly, philodendron, azalea, rhododendron, daffodil daphne, foxglove, bleeding heart, potato, iris, ivy, oleander, rubber plant, tobacco, tulip, clematis, morning glory, and weeping fig.
- \* Store plastic bags where the young pet cannot get inside them and suffocate or chew/tear them and swallow bits of plastic. Plastic six-pack holders used for packaging beverages should be cut apart.
- \* Never give your pet any medication without first consulting with your veterinarian. Never use over-the-counter products on pets without first checking with your veterinarian. Veterinarians are the true pet experts. Guard against potential exposure to human medications. Even in small doses, aspirin, acetaminophen, diet pills, sleeping pills, and tranquilizers can all be fatal to your pet.
- \* Always be sure your pet is secure before leaving the pet alone. We strongly recommend the pet be confined in a plastic travel crate for at least the first few months.
- \* If the pet is allowed outdoors, always be sure to blow your horn and hang on the hood before starting and moving your vehicle. Kittens especially like to crawl up under the hood to keep warm.
- \* Keep sewing supplies out of your pet's reach. Buttons, needles, pins, and thread can hurt his mouth or cause intestinal obstructions if swallowed. The same goes for nails, staples, screws, brads, earplugs, and aluminum can tabs.

If you follow these practical steps to safety for your new pet, you AND your pet will be much better off. Be sure to swing by the office sometime, or give us a call for additional information on how to provide a safe, secure home for your pets - new or old!



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