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Saskatoon Sun

Keep your pets safe with these precautions

The Saskatoon SPCA would like to remind pet owners of the hazards that come along with the spring and summer months, it said in a news release.

Everyone loves lush green lawns and spring is the right time to apply lawn treatments. Unfortunately, the same products that produce healthy lawns can sometimes cause health problems for pets. Contact with herbicides can cause vomiting, excess salivation, problems with the central nervous system, and even sudden death.

By taking a few precautions, you can protect your pets and still have lush green lawns. Before applying lawn treatments or before treatment by a professional lawn service, remove any pet water and food dishes from the yard. Always keep your pets inside while chemicals are being applied and keep them off the treated grass for at least 24 hours after an application. If your dog manages to come in contact with a freshly treated lawn in spite of your best efforts, wash it's paws with soap and water immediately. If you live in a neighbourhood with adjoining yards, make sure your dog doesn't wander onto a neighbour's newly treated lawn.

Other Springtime dangers:

- Tree Sprays, Garden Dusts, and Foggers;
- Slug and Snail Killing Pellets;
- Rodenticides;
- Cocoa Mulch;
- Chemicals in Pressure Treated Decks;
- Stinging Insects;
- Heartworms;
- Fleas and Ticks.

Keep your pet safe and sound this spring by treating it like a toddler. Both are naturally curious and need your guidance to keep them out of harm's way.

Wipe up and flush away any automotive spills immediately. Keep your pets indoors when you are changing antifreeze. Bring used antifreeze to recycling centres for proper disposal. Make sure your car has no coolant leaks.

Never feed someone else's pet anything without explicit permission.

Rodenticides such as strychnine are highly toxic and any such poisons designed to kill small mammals need to be carefully contained in closed metal cabinets or high on stable shelving.

When using rat or mouse bait, ant or roach traps, or snail and slug baits, place the products in areas that are inaccessible to animals. Most bait contains sweet smelling inert ingredients, such as jelly, peanut butter, and sugars, which can be very attracting to dogs.

If you think your pet might have ingested a chemical poison, you must act fast to stop the poison from being absorbed into his system. Call your veterinarian or poison control centre with a container at hand, if possible, to identify the chemical and the amount ingested.

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