



Cannabis & Pets

Frequently Asked Questions

What is cannabis?

Cannabis (marijuana, weed, pot, and many other slang terms) can include hemp products. While there are many chemicals or compounds in cannabis, two of the main chemicals are tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which is psychoactive (mind-changing), and cannabidiol (CBD), which is a non-psychoactive (not mind-changing).

Are cannabis and cannabis products safe for my pet?

Some individuals claim cannabis products have health benefits for your pet. This claim has not been tested or verified by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA). Dogs and cats can be more sensitive to the effects of cannabis than people. It can be dangerous for pets to be exposed to cannabis products made for humans because of the high THC levels, which may be toxic to pets. Dogs have more cannabinoid receptors in their brains. This can dramatically increase the effects of cannabis and potentially make cannabis products more toxic for dogs when compared to humans. A pet eating even small amounts of cannabis (or a cannabis product) may be enough to develop life-threatening toxicity. Inhaling secondhand cannabis smoke can also be harmful to pets. Do not blow smoke in a pet's face.

How can I keep my cannabis safely and securely stored and away from my pet?

Keep all forms of cannabis, medical or recreational, out of reach of your pet. Since pets have a good sense of smell, they may be tempted to eat candies, chips, chocolates, baked items, and cannabis flower (buds). Consider storage in sealed containers (reduce smell) and in locked upper cabinets (closer to the ceiling) when not in use. If smoking, keep pets in a separate and well-ventilated room (or outside), away from the smoke.

What types of cannabis products can pets be exposed to?

If cannabis is not safely and securely stored there is the possibility of increased accidental exposure for pets.



Edibles (food or drinks that have cannabis in them)



Cannabis plant or plant products (leaves, cigarettes, or buds)



Oil and butters



Smoke

What are the most common signs of cannabis toxicity in pets?

- Lack of balance and coordination
- Disorientation
- Dilated pupils
- Sensitivity to light and sound
- Dribbling urine
- Excessive drooling
- Seizures
- Vomiting
- Tiredness

What do I do if my pet has eaten or inhaled cannabis?

If you notice suspicious behavior in your pet and cannabis exposure is a possibility, contact an emergency veterinary service by phone, and take your pet to a veterinary hospital immediately.

Bring any remaining cannabis product and the label (or a clear picture of the label) with you, if possible. Make sure it is safely and securely stored during transit*. Having the label and some of the product may make it easier to correctly diagnose your pet and provide the appropriate treatment.

**Please do not cross state lines with cannabis as it is currently illegal federally.*