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How to Puppy and Kitten Proof Your House

Kittens and puppies are naturally inquisitive, which can often lead to serious injury. Here are some tips on how you can make your house safer for the new arrival.

That's shocking- Young animals love to chew when they are teething. Keep electrical wires out of reach or use a pet repellent spray.

They'll die or some chocolate- Chocolate can be dangerous, especially baker's chocolate. It contains theobromine, a powerful stimulant that is toxic to pets. Sweets, cakes and cookies can also upset a young animal's gastrointestinal tract and lead to diarrhea and vomiting.

Treats can be threats- Never give turkey, chicken, or rib bones as a treat. They can splinter and cause serious injury.

Common household killers- Cleaning agents, bleach, ammonia, disinfectants, drain cleaner, oven cleaner, paint, gasoline, rat poison...Keep them locked up!!!

Check the antifreeze- Pets are attracted to the odor and sweet taste of antifreeze. Store it high and tightly sealed, wiping up any spills on the floor. Window washing solution also contains antifreeze. And remember, engine warmth promotes cat naps, so honk your horn to wake pets under the hood.

Killer house plants- Poisonous plants include lilies, philodendron, dieffenbachia, elephant ear, eucalyptus, spider plants, azalea, ivy, amaryllis, pyracanth, oleander, boxwood, Jerusalem cherry and plant bulbs.

Keep off the grass- If you treat your lawn with chemicals, keep pets away. Read and follow label directions carefully.

If it fit yesterday- Puppies and kittens grow rapidly. Collars and harnesses can be rapidly outgrown leading to serious injury.

Take care of personal items and medications- Cosmetics, shampoos, skin creams, hair/perm solutions, depilatories, suntan lotions, sleeping pills, antihistamines, aspirin, and acetaminophen can all be lethal to pets.

It's not a toy- Don't leave plastic bags or empty chip bags out on the open. They can be a serious choking hazard