



Four Pet Safety Tips for Fall

by VetDepot on September 18, 2014

It's finally time to say goodbye to the dog days of summer and hello to a new season. But, as the leaves change colors and the weather starts to get cooler, be aware that there are dangers for pets this time of year. Don't miss these four fall safety tips:

1. Watch out for snakes: Fall is the time of year when snakes are prepping for hibernation and they're a little more ill-tempered during this period. Keep your dog on the trail during fall hikes and educate yourself about venomous snakes in your area.
2. Protect pets from mushrooms: Autumn is the season for mushrooms! Although most varieties are harmless, some can be deadly. To be safe, it's best to keep pets away from all mushrooms while on walks or playing outdoors. Vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, excessive drooling, and weakness are all signs of mushroom poisoning. Seek immediate veterinary care should your pet experience these symptoms.
3. Consider upping your pet's food intake: When temperatures drop, it takes more energy to stay warm when exercising outdoors. Food generates body heat, so if your pet gets a lot of activity, you may want to consider a higher daily calorie allowance.
4. Beware of rodenticides: When temperatures start to cool off, rodents often head indoors to find shelter, causing many people to use rodenticides to get rid of unwanted pests. Pet owners should use caution because these products are extremely dangerous to pets if ingested and can be deadly. Symptoms of rodenticide poisoning include lethargy, pale gums, vomiting, coughing, and unusual bleeding. Emergency veterinary care should be sought immediately if poisoning is suspected.