

Smoking Around Pets

Is It Safe to Smoke Around Cats and Dogs?

When it comes to our furry friends, their health and safety are paramount. Recent studies have raised significant concerns about the dangers of passive smoking for pets. Research indicates that being around smoke can increase the risk of serious health issues in dogs and cats, including nasal cancer in dogs and lymphoma and mouth cancer in cats.



Why Are Pets at High Risk?

Pets, especially dogs and cats, often love to snuggle up next to their owners. This close contact means they breathe in more smoke whenever someone lights up. They tend to spend a lot of time lounging on carpets and furniture that can collect harmful particles from smoke. These carcinogenic particles don't just linger in the air; they can settle on your pet's fur, and when they groom themselves, they inadvertently ingest these toxins.

Moreover, pets have a sense of smell that's far more acute than ours, making them more sensitive to the unpleasant odour of tobacco smoke. Beyond the risk of cancer,

second-hand smoke can also exacerbate respiratory issues like bronchitis and asthma



in pets.

The Dangers of Passive Smoking to Dogs

Research shows a clear link between tobacco smoke exposure and an increased risk of nasal cancer in dogs. However, it's important to note that not all cases of nasal cancer are due to passive smoking. If your dog shows signs of breathing difficulties or has severe nasal discharge, it could be a red flag for respiratory issues. Keep an eye on your furry friend, regardless of your smoking habits.

The Dangers of Passive Smoking to Cats

Cats are particularly vulnerable to the dangers of passive smoking. Their self-grooming habits mean they can ingest toxic particles from their fur, leading to potential health risks. Inhalation of second-hand smoke, combined with this grooming behavior, could increase their risk of developing blood cancers like lymphoma and mouth cancer.

Protecting Your Pets if You Smoke

The best way to safeguard your pets is to avoid smoking around them altogether. If you must smoke, try to do so outdoors. While smoking in a different room can reduce exposure, it doesn't eliminate the risk entirely. Particles can cling to your clothes and linger on nearby furniture, so good ventilation is key. Regular vacuuming of soft

surfaces can also help reduce the buildup of harmful particles in your home.



Are E-Cigarettes and Vaporisers a Safer Alternative?

Although no studies have definitively linked the fumes from electronic cigarettes to harm in pets, there is still a risk of poisoning if they ingest e-liquids. The Veterinary Poisons Information Service has reported an uptick in electronic cigarette poisoning cases in pets, with 113 incidents documented in 2016 alone. The actual number is likely much higher. So, while e-cigarettes may be less harmful than traditional tobacco, it's crucial to keep them out of your pet's reach.

In summary, while smoking around pets can pose serious health risks, taking preventive measures can help protect them. It's always better to prioritise their well-being by creating a smoke-free environment. Your furry companions will thank you for it! 🐾💚