

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson President

Fall is such a beautiful time of year in the north woods of Wisconsin. The coloration, the slow transitions, the skeletons supporting the leaves, hastes, after the first frost, become translucent are beautiful sights! The other sight I enjoy is when our dogs, Chip and Lola, disappear into the leaves. They both have the coloration of fallen leaves and pop up when we call their names and of course they bring in a collection of dried leaves into the house. I guess this is their way of helping with raking.

The fall season also brings some possible challenges to our pets. Below are some tips from the ASPCA to ensure our pets are happy, safe and healthy this fall!

1. School is back in session, which means there will be plenty of school supplies in the home. Those with young children likely have drawers filled with glue sticks, pencils and magic markers! Although these items are considered low toxicity to pets, gastrointestinal upset and blockages can occur if ingested. Be sure to keep school supplies out of paws' reach
2. The use of rat and mouse poisons increases in the fall as rodents seek shelter from the cooler temperatures by attempting to move indoors. Rodenticides are highly toxic (and sometimes very appealing) to pets, and if ingested, the results could be fatal. If you must use these products, please do so with extreme caution and keep them in places inaccessible to your pets.
4. Many people choose Fall as the time to change their car's engine coolant. Ethylene glycol-based coolants are highly toxic, so they should be kept away from pets and any spills should be cleaned up immediately. Consider switching to propylene glycol-based coolants—though they aren't completely nontoxic, they are much less toxic than other engine coolants.
5. During the autumn season, snakes prepare for hibernation, increasing the possibility of bites to pets who find themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time. Pet parents should know what kinds of venomous snakes may be lurking in their environment—and where those snakes are most likely to be found—so pets can be kept out of those areas. There are 21 different snakes in Wisconsin. Fortunately for us there are only two poisonous snakes - the timber rattlesnake and the eastern massasauga. They are found only in specific habitats in the the southwestern part of the state.
6. With Fall comes mushroom season. While 99% of mushrooms have little or no toxicity, the 1% that are highly toxic can cause life-threatening problems in pets. Since most toxic mushrooms are difficult to distinguish from nontoxic ones, the best way to prevent pets from ingesting these poisonous plants is to

keep them away from areas where any mushrooms are growing. Please visit the ASPCA site for a listing of Poisonous Plants page for more information.

*If you suspect your pet may have ingested something toxic or has been bitten by a snake, please contact your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435 immediately.*

*A BIG THANK YOU to our Fall Fest Team at the Thrift Shop: Jeanne Hornak, Roberta Christainsen, Barbara Hoeft, Rob Taite, David Nemec, Eva Fjeerstad, Sue Hudson, Barbara Hoeft and on Main Street: Kim Kral, Joan Cervenka, Alecia Austin and Lynn Schriener.*