Opioid Safety For Pet Owners

- A message from the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine on household prescription drug safety for pets and owners -

**WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW**

A growing concern in the U.S. is the use of prescription opioids and other medications that are intended for pet consumption, but are obtained by individuals for illicit use. Additionally, prescription drugs that are intended for animals can also pose health risks for pet owners around the home.

**PROPER DISPOSAL**

Improper disposal of prescription opioids and other medications is harmful to humans and animals. Make sure to always dispose of your expired or unused prescriptions in a safe and responsible way. Learn more about safe disposal of medicines, visit VaAware. Learn more about proper storage of fentanyl patches from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration.


**HOME SAFETY TIPS**

- Consult a veterinarian immediately if you suspect your pet has been inadvertently exposed to a prescription drug, or shows symptoms such as vomiting, seizing or other illness.

- Prescriptions should be stored securely in a locked cabinet or container to help avoid accidental exposure or unauthorized use.

- Flushing prescription drugs down the drain can contaminate water sources and may potentially harm humans and animals that ingest them.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine  U.S. Food & Drug Administration  U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration  VaAware
Opioid Safety For Pet Owners
- A message from the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine on safe use of opioids and other medication prescriptions -

PROPER DISPOSAL

Improper disposal of controlled substances may be harmful to humans and animals.

Veterinarians are required to follow regulatory requirements for controlled substance disposal. The Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine can be found on the Board of Veterinary Medicine’s website. https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/vet

OVERDOSE AWARENESS

For more information on reducing the risk of unintended exposure to opioids by humans and animals, visit the U.S. Food & Drug Administration online:

- Fentanyl patches can be deadly to children https://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm300803.htm
- Safe disposal of medicines http://vaaware.com/

Naloxone, an opioid reversal drug, is used to counteract the effects of opioids that have been consumed. It is proven to be effective in humans after a suspected overdose.

*For more information on the use of naloxone, visit the Virginia Board of Pharmacy online.

https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/pharmacy

FEDERAL DISPOSAL LINKS

1. DEA Registrant Drug Disposal
   https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/

2. DEA National Prescription Drug Take-back Initiative for consumer education
   https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine
https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/vet

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
https://www.dea.gov

U.S. Food & Drug Administration
https://www.fda.gov

VaAware
https://vaaware.com

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

Alert pet owners of the dangers related to unintended exposure to prescription opioids and other medications.