



# Opioid Safety For Pet Owners

- A message from the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine on household opioid 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 potentially 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](#) from VaAware. Learn more about [proper storage of fentanyl patches](#) from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration.

### DRUG TAKEBACK

Each year, Virginia law enforcement participates in nationally recognized drug take-back days hosted by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

**FIND OUT WHICH TAKE-BACK LOCATION IS CLOSEST TO YOU**

### 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



# Opioid Safety for Veterinarians

- A message from the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine on safe use of opioids by veterinary professionals -

## 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](#).

## FEDERAL DISPOSAL LINKS

1. [DEA Registrant Drug Disposal](#)
2. [DEA National Prescription Drug Take-back Initiative for consumer education](#)

## 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](#)
- [FDA drug safety communication](#)
- [Safe disposal of medicines](#)

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](#).

## PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

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

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES