

ASPCA Warning
by Oscar

The folks here at Animal Care and Control NEVER say “Now I’ve seen it all” because sure as they do, they “see” something new. This is a little something from the ASPCA that I had never seen before so I thought I would pass it on. Kids and pets get into the darnedest things!

POISON CONTROL ALERT: AVOIDING CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE MOTHBALL KIND

“Traditionally used to prevent clothing from being eaten by moth larvae, mothballs are also scattered in backyards to repel deer, raccoons and other wild animals. But unfortunately, that hasn't stopped domestic animals from getting into this toxic household product. According to the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC), the ingestion of just one mothball can cause serious problems in dogs and cats. Symptoms include vomiting, lethargy, seizures and blood disorders. Kidney failure and coma can develop in severe cases.

“‘Mothballs are supposed to repel animals, but they don't always,’ says APCC's Jill A. Richardson, DVM, who remembers an emergency call from a pet owner who reported that her cat had bluish gums and seemed very depressed. “The owners mentioned that they had sprinkled some mothballs around an open closet, and their son said he saw the cat lick some of them,” says Richardson. The owners were instructed to bring their pet to the local animal hospital, and the veterinarian there consulted the APCC for recommended treatment--which included, in this case, medication, blood transfusions and oxygen therapy, “as the cat's blood was not carrying oxygen well,” explains Richardson. Treatment continued for several days, and the cat was later released to her owner.

“To prevent this from happening in your home or backyard, always keep mothballs in areas that aren't accessible to pets or other animals, and keep in mind that the most dangerous mothballs are the old-fashioned type, which contain 100-percent naphthalene. “Paradichlorvos is a safer type to use,” says Richardson. And if you suspect that your pet has ingested a mothball--or any other potentially dangerous substance--call your veterinarian or the APCC's emergency hotline at 1-888-4-ANI-HELP for round-the-clock telephone assistance. For more information on poison prevention, visit APCC online.”

Just for information, the human poison control number is 1-800-362-0101. It’s wise to keep both numbers handy.

As always, lots of critters at our shelters. We are now open ½ day, one Saturday a month at our Eleven Mile Corner facility. The schedule and details are available by calling the office, but the next two dates are November 16th and December 14, 8:00 A.M. to Noon. So if you need to purchase a license or want to browse through the kennel, these are the days! Office numbers are (520)723-1182 or (520)868-7228.