



What your pet would tell you if they could talk

Pet News

University Animal Hospital's Monthly Newsletter
Helping Pets and their People

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RABIES ALERT

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DID YOU KNOW?

Each year, about 40,000 people receive treatment for bites from potentially infected animals to prevent rabies.



**Protect Yourself and Your Pet:
Be Online Pet Pharmacy
A.W.A.R.E.**

*"Affordable pet prescriptions!"
"Pet meds at discount prices!"
"No prescription required!"
"Your best source for pet meds!"*

If you've ever searched online for prescription pet medicines, you've no doubt seen eye-catching, attention-grabbing claims. They sound convincing in their promises of convenience and lower prices. But are these claims really true?

Scroll down to read full article.

April is Toxic Plants and Foods Awareness Month



See a list of common household items and plants that can be poisonous to your pet! Scroll down to see full list.

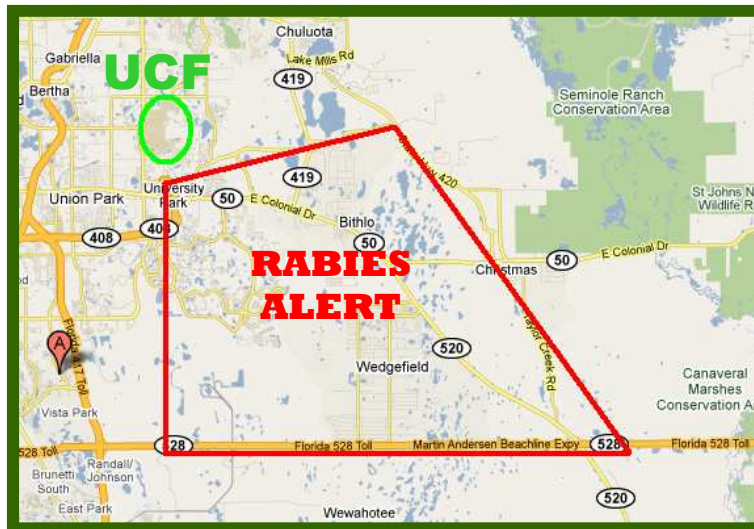
RABIES ALERT IN ORANGE COUNTY

Recently, Orange County Health Department issued a **RABIES ALERT**, due to one raccoon and one fox found to have rabies in the last two weeks. Several dogs came in contact with the rabid raccoon and fox; these dogs are under a 45-day home quarantine for rabies.

All citizens of Orange County should be aware that rabies is present in the wild animal population and poses a risk to humans and unvaccinated domestic animals. The public is asked to maintain a heightened awareness of rabies. Alerts are designed to increase public awareness, but should not give a false sense of security to areas that have not been named under an alert.

Rabies is a potentially deadly disease. Parents need to supervise small children carefully and be aware of unusual acting animals.

The rabies alert area is bordered on the west by Alafaya Trail, on the north by Lake Pickett Road, on the east by Fort Christmas Road and Taylor Creek Road and on the south by the Beachline or SR 528.



The Orange County Health Department urges the public to help protect themselves and to prevent the spread of rabies by taking the following steps:

- Homeowners in the alert area should be sure that their pets are fully immunized against rabies.
- Keep your pets under direct supervision so they do not come in contact with wild animals. If your pet is bitten by a wild animal, seek veterinary assistance immediately and contact **Orange County Animal Services at (407) 836-3111**
- Avoid contact with all wildlife, especially raccoons, bats, foxes, skunks, otters, and coyotes.
- Wild animals and stray pets should not be approached. **DO NOT** handle, feed, or attract wild or stray animals. Unusual acting animals should be reported to **Orange County Animal Services** at the above number.
- Teach children **NEVER** to handle unfamiliar animals, wild or domestic, even if they appear friendly.
- **NEVER** adopt wild animals or bring them into your home.
- Prevent bats from entering living quarters or occupied spaces in homes, churches, schools, and other similar areas, where they might come in contact with people or pets.
- Secure outside garbage in covered containers to avoid attracting wild animals.
- **Do not leave pet food outside.** This may attract other animals.
- Anyone who is bitten or scratched by wild animals or strays should report the incident to their doctor immediately, as well as Orange County Animal Services and their local health department. The contact number to report an animal bite to **Orange County Health Department is (407) 858-1420.**
- Contact your veterinarian with any questions or concerns you may have.

Foods to Avoid Feeding Your Pet

- Alcoholic beverages
- Avocado
- Chocolate (all forms)
- Coffee (all forms)
- Fatty foods
- Macadamia nuts
- Moldy or spoiled foods
- Onions, onion powder
- Raisins and grapes
- Salt
- Yeast dough
- Garlic
- Products sweetened with xylitol

Warm Weather Hazards

- Animal toxins—toads, insects, spiders, snakes and scorpions
- Blue-green algae in ponds
- Citronella candles
- Cocoa mulch
- Compost piles Fertilizers
- Flea products
- Outdoor plants and plant bulbs
- Swimming-pool treatment supplies
- Fly baits containing methomyl
- Slug and snail baits containing metaldehyde

Medication

Common examples of human medications that can be potentially lethal to pets, even in small doses, include:

- Pain killers
- Cold medicines
- Anti-cancer drugs
- Antidepressants
- Vitamins
- Diet Pills

Cold Weather Hazards

- Antifreeze
- Liquid potpourri
- Ice melting products
- Rat and mouse bait

Common Household Hazards

- Fabric softener sheets
- Mothballs
- Post-1982 pennies (due to high concentration of zinc)

A Poison Safe Home



Toxic Plants

- Lilies
- Marijuana
- Sago Palm
- Tulip/Narcissus bulbs
- Azalea/Rhododendron
- Oleander
- Castor Bean
- Cyclamen
- Kalanchoe
- Yew
- Amaryllis
- Autumn Crocus
- Chrysanthemum
- English Ivy
- Peace Lily (AKA Mauna Loa Peace Lily)
- Pothos
- Schefflera

Holiday Hazards

- Christmas tree water (may contain fertilizers and bacteria, which, if ingested, can upset the stomach.)
- Electrical cords
- Ribbons or tinsel (can become lodged in the intestines and cause intestinal obstruction—most often occurs with kittens!)
- Batteries
- Glass ornaments

Non-toxic Substances for Dogs and Cats

The following substances are considered to be non-toxic, although they may cause mild gastrointestinal upset in some animals:

- Water-based paints
- Toilet bowl water
- Silica gel
- Poinsettia
- Cat litter
- Glue traps
- Glow jewelry

Protect Yourself and Your Pet: Be Online Pet Pharmacy A.W.A.R.E.

"Affordable pet prescriptions!" "Pet meds at discount prices!" "No prescription required!" "Your best source for pet meds!"

If you've ever searched online for prescription pet medicines, you've no doubt seen eye-catching, attention-grabbing claims. They sound convincing in their promises of convenience and lower prices. But are these claims really true? Internet sites that sell pet drugs can be reputable pharmacies. However, others are fronts for businesses breaking Federal, State, and sometimes, International laws. Illegal online pharmacies may sell medicines that are counterfeit, outdated, mislabeled, incorrectly formulated, or improperly made or stored. These medicines may not contain the actual drug, or the correct amount of drug, may contain contaminants, may not work as well due to age or being stored in conditions that were too hot, cold, or humid, and may not have the proper directions for use. If you are unhappy with ordered products, illegal online pharmacies may fraudulently leave you with no way to get your money back. In the end, you may find buying prescription pet medicines online costly to your pet's health and your wallet.

You should also know that neither the drug maker nor your veterinarian will stand behind a product's guarantee if you purchase the product online.

If you still want to purchase your pet's prescription medicines online, remember there is no fool-proof way to tell if an online pharmacy is legal. However, you can protect yourself by doing your homework and being online pharmacy **A.W.A.R.E.**

A— Ask Your Veterinarian

Before you purchase online, talk with your veterinarian! Your veterinarian supports you and wants what's best for both you and your pet. Ask your veterinarian questions, like: "Do you trust the internet pharmacy site?", "Have you ever worked with the company?", and "Have other clients used that site?" If any of the answers are "yes," what were your veterinarian's experiences?

W—Watch for Red Flags

When buying from online pharmacies, keep an eye out for red flags. Be careful if the...

- *Site does not require veterinary prescriptions for prescription drug orders.*
- *Site has no licensed pharmacist available to answer questions.*
- *Site does not list physical business address, phone number, or other contact information.*
- *Site is not based in the US.*
- *Site is not licensed by the State Board of Pharmacy where the business is based.*

If the business is based in the US, check to see if it is properly licensed in the State where it is based by contacting that State's Board of Pharmacy. Contact information for each State Board of Pharmacy is available on the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) website: <http://www.nabp.net/ftpfiles/NABP01/ROSTER.pdf>

- *Site does not protect your personal information.*
- *Site's prices are dramatically lower than your veterinarian's or other website's prices.*
- *Site ships you medicine that you didn't order or that looks very different from what your pet normally takes.*

Don't give these medicines to your pet! Contact the site immediately!

A—Always Check for Site Accreditation

In addition to following Federal and State licensing and inspection requirements, in 2009, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) created a voluntary accreditation program called Vet-VIPPS (Veterinary-Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites).

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R—Report Problems and Suspicious Online Pharmacies

If your pet has a problem with a medicine purchased online (for example, a reaction to the medicine or the medicine not working), first contact the medicine's maker. To report adverse drug events directly to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) call 1-800-FDA-VETS. For a copy of the reporting form (FDA Form 1932a) and for more information on how to report problems, visit the following website:

<http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/ReportaProblem/ucm055305.htm>

Protect yourself, your pets, and others! Don't fall victim to illegal online pharmacies. Report suspicious online pharmacy sites to FDA and NABP at:

FDA: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/ReportaProblem/ucm059315.htm>

NABP: <http://www.nabp.net/>

E—Educate Yourself about Online Pharmacies

The best defense you have against illegal online pharmacies is education. Do your homework and be online pharmacy A.W.A.R.E. before you purchase your pet's medicines online. **An informed consumer is an empowered consumer.**

For more information about purchasing pet medicines from online pharmacies, visit CVM's website at: <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary>, or call CVM at 1-240-276-9300.

Whenever your pet needs prescription medicines, your veterinarian is your best, most reliable source, because your veterinarian:

- physically examined your pet and knows your pet's medical and treatment history,
- knows which medicines are safest for your pet,
- educates you about potential side effects associated with your pet's medicines,
- shows you how to properly use the medicines prescribed for your pet,
- stores prescription medicines in the clinic according to label directions, and
- uses current, unexpired medicines.

Be Online Pet Pharmacy AWARE:

A- Ask your veterinarian

W-Watch for red flags

A-Always check for site accreditation

R-Report problems and suspicious online pharmacies

E-Educate yourself about online pharmacies