

Can Smoking Harm Pets?

Yes.



More than just breathing it in. Pets get a bigger dose of chemicals from smoking than you might think. Have you ever noticed the smoke stains that coat the furniture and walls of a smoker's home? That "smoker's residue" also gets into the fur or feathers of pets, and it contains a lot of chemicals. Pets living in a smoker's home not only inhale smoke. They also eat it every day when they groom their fur or feathers.

Smoking hurts pets:

- Dogs that live in a smoking environment are three times more likely to develop lung or nasal cancers.
- Cats that live in a smoking environment are more than three times likely to come down with cancer in the mouth or lymphoma (a cancer of the immune system).
- All pets can develop breathing problems, eye irritation, and skin irritation when exposed to smoke and smoke residue.
- Curious pets become very sick when they eat cigarette butts, nicotine gum or patches, and need emergency veterinary treatment. Small pets, puppies and kittens can even die from eating them.

What Should I Do? Best plan: Stop smoking for their health and yours! If you must smoke, do it away from your pet. Keep cigarette butts, nicotine gum, and nicotine patches out of their reach.