

Don't lose your sparkle

Keep your dog safe this autumn by avoiding these hazards



OUT AND ABOUT



1. Harvest mites

In autumn, these tiny insects climb up long grass, bushes and trees waiting to sink their fangs into something warm-blooded. Signs of infestation can include skin inflammation and scratching.



4. Darker nights

Darker nights can reduce your dog's ability to be seen, and with it being firework season, if they hear a noise they could also run away. Ensure you and your dog are visible with reflective leads, collars and hi-viz vests.



2. Mushrooms and toadstools

Some wild mushrooms are highly toxic and if swallowed can cause kidney and liver failure. Try and keep your dog away from all wild varieties.



5. Rock salt

Rock salt or grit on the roads can cause your dog to become dehydrated or in serious cases, cause liver failure if they lick it from their paws. Ensure you wipe away any rock salt after you have taken them on a walk.



3. Fireworks

Many dogs show signs of stress when exposed to fireworks. And not only that, fireworks can scare dogs into running onto busy roads.



FROM TREES AND PLANTS



6. Conkers

Conkers contain poison called aesculin which can cause drooling, vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pain. Ingestion can also lead to potentially fatal intestinal blockages.



8. Fallen leaves

Leaves left long enough will eventually turn to leaf mould and, like any decomposing organic matter, may contain dangerous mycotoxins.



7. Acorns

Acorns contain a chemical called galotannin that's toxic to dogs and ingestion can cause liver and kidney damage. Affected dogs will show signs that include vomiting, diarrhoea, lethargy and abdominal pain.



9. Rotten fruit

Fallen fruit such as apples, pears and plums eventually ferments naturally on the ground and so may contain poisonous ethanol.

IN AND AROUND THE HOME



10. Halloween treats

Many of the jelly sweets people buy in for halloween 'trick or treaters' contain the artificial sweetener xylitol which is poisonous to dogs. And chocolate contains a stimulant called theobromine, which is also toxic to dogs.



12. Antifreeze

Ethylene glycol, as it's officially known, is sweet-tasting and palatable, but even a small quantity can cause severe kidney damage. Dogs who have ingested antifreeze may vomit, have seizures or have difficulty breathing.



11. Rat poison

Rodenticide is commonly put down in autumn when rats start heading indoors for warmth. While designed to taste nice to rats, unfortunately, dogs like it for the same reason. Speak to your vet if you think your dog has eaten a poisoned rodent.



TOP TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE IN AUTUMN

Stay bright

Whilst walking your dog at night, consider reflective or glow in the dark leads and collars. Perhaps take a small torch to ensure you and your dog are seen by drivers.

Keep calm

In the lead up to and during fireworks night, walk your dog early and ensure they have a safe space to hide. Drown out the noise by drawing your curtains, have music playing or having the television on.

Flea treatment

Ensure your dog has up to date flea treatment administered as fleas can thrive indoors when we start to heat our homes in autumn.

Trees & plants

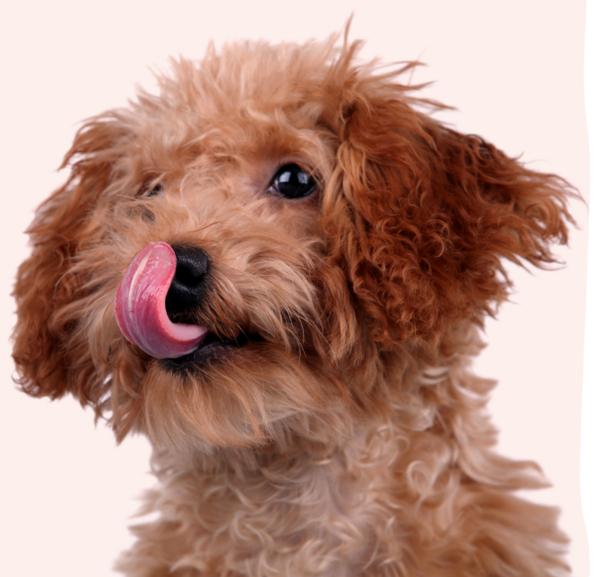
Do not encourage your dog to play with conkers or acorns during walks. Avoid letting them roll around in rotting leaves which can be toxic if ingested.

Chemicals

Always use a pet safe product if you are attempting to get rid of vermin.

Sweets

Keep halloween treats and sweets out of reach of your dog.



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