

## Secondhand Tobacco Smoke Harms Pets

You may know that secondhand smoke is bad for humans, but did you know it's also bad for pets? Breathing tobacco smoke or eating tobacco products can hurt your pet. Here are some examples of studies and information about pets and tobacco smoke:

- Cigarette smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals; 50 of them cause cancer.
- Pets absorb these chemicals from a smoker's home by breathing the smoke and by licking their fur or objects where smoke lands. Amphibians, like frogs, toads and newts, also absorb chemicals through their skin.
- Smoking causes lung, bladder, mouth, throat, esophagus, cervix, kidney, lung, pancreas, stomach and blood cancers in people. Secondhand smoke also causes cancer in animals.



- Cats living in homes where people smoked a pack or more a day had three times more lymphoma (a type of cancer) than cats with no household exposure. The higher the amount of secondhand smoke and the more years of exposure, the greater the animals' chance of developing the disease.
- Cats living in tobacco smoke for five or more years were seven times more likely to develop squamous cell carcinoma, a common cancer of the mouth.



- Yorkshire terriers living in homes where people smoked 20 or more cigarettes a day for at least two years had more inflamed lungs.



- Atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries) is the leading cause of illness and death in Americans. Older birds may also have it and die suddenly. But, birds living with even low levels of secondhand tobacco smoke developed atherosclerosis faster.

**If you smoke, think about stopping or cutting down to protect your health and your pet's health. See the next page for more information on how you and your home can become tobacco-free.**