HOW TO PUPPY & KITTEN PROOF YOUR HOUSE

**Kittens and puppies are naturally inquisitive**, which can often lead to serious injury. Here are some tips on how you can make your house safer for the new arrival.

**That's shocking** -Young animals love to chew when they're teething. Keep electrical wires out of reach, or use a pet-repellent spray.

**They'd die for some chocolate** - Chocolate can be dangerous. It contains theobromine, a powerful stimulant that is toxic to pets. Sweets, cakes and cookies can also upset a young animal's G.I. tract and lead to diarrhea and vomiting, which can be serious.

**Treats can be threats** - Never give turkey, chicken or rib bones as a treat. They can splinter and cause serious injury.

**Common household killers** -Cleaning agents, bleach, ammonia, disinfectants, drain cleaner, oven cleaner, paint, gasoline, rat poison. Keep them locked up.

**Check the antifreeze** - Pets are attracted to the odor and sweet taste of antifreeze. Store it high and tightly sealed, wiping up any spills on the garage floor. Window-washing solution also contains antifreeze. Remember, engine warmth promotes catnaps, so honk your horn to wake pets under the hood.

**Killer house plants** - Poisonous plants include lilies, philodendron, dieffenbachia, elephant ear, eucalyptus, spider plants, azalea, ivy, amaryllis, pyracantha, oleander, boxwood, Jerusalem Cherry and plant bulbs.

**Keep off the grass** - If you treat your lawn with chemicals, keep pets away. Read and follow label directions carefully.

**It fit yesterday** - Puppies and kittens grow rapidly. Collars and harnesses can be rapidly outgrown, leading to serious wounds.

**Take care of personal care items and medications** - Cosmetics, shampoos, skin creams, hair "perm" solutions, depilatories, suntan lotions, sleeping pills, antihistamines, aspirin and acetaminophen can all be lethal to pets.

**It's not a toy** - Don't leave plastic bags out. Inquisitive young animals, especially kittens, can suffocate.

**The heat is on** - Watch out for hot irons, coffee pots and space heaters. Kittens and puppies will suddenly be able to jump to new heights.

**A dip tip** - Keep covers on hot tubs and swimming pools. Kittens and even young puppies can fall in and not be able to get out.

**'Tis the season** - Keep holly, mistletoe and especially Christmas tree tinsel out of reach.

**Cozy up** - Always use a fireplace screen.

**Do you eat with that mouth?** - Rule of thumb: If any or all of something will fit in a mouth, it's dangerous. Watch out for cigarette butts, rubber bands, balloons, sewing needles, thread, string, ribbons and, yes, even pantyhose. Because what goes in must come out, often via surgery.