

FACT SHEET

# Secondhand Smoke & Pets

*Secondhand smoke can be harmful to pets:*



- Dogs that inhale secondhand smoke are three times more likely to develop lung or nasal cancer than dogs living in smoke-free homes.
- Dogs can experience allergic reactions to secondhand smoke. Common symptoms of this allergic reaction are the scratching, biting, and chewing of their skin. Owners often confuse this reaction with fleas or food allergies.
- Cigarette butts can also be deadly. Two butts, if eaten by a puppy, can cause death in a relatively short period of time.
- Birds can react badly to secondhand smoke and may develop eye problems, as well as other respiratory problems like coughing and wheezing.
- Birds that sit on a smoker's hand can experience contact dermatitis from the nicotine that remains on the smoker's hand. This can cause them to pull out their feathers.
- Cats exposed to secondhand smoke in the home have a higher rate of an oral cancer called squamous cell carcinoma, which may be due to the way cats groom themselves. When cats groom themselves they eat the poisons from secondhand smoke that have settled on their fur.
- Cats exposed to secondhand smoke have a higher rate of feline lymphoma, a deadly form of cancer, than cats not exposed to secondhand smoke.
- Cats can develop respiratory problems, lung inflammation, and asthma as a result of secondhand smoke.



*Tobacco smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals;  
Hundreds are known to be toxic and about 70 can cause cancer.*

***Keep your pets safe by protecting them from secondhand smoke.***