

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Harmful Hikes: Keep Fido Safe When Hiking the Trails

NAPPS Urges Pet Parents to Be Cautious When Exploring Outdoors with a Pet Pal

MOUNT LAUREL, N.J. –July 18, 2012— With summer in full swing, many pet parents are taking advantage of the warm weather by enjoying the great outdoors with their furry friends. While outdoor exploring and exercise is always exciting, it's important to keep safety a top priority at all times.

The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS), a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the welfare of animals, reminds pet parents to keep their pet pal's best interest in mind when embarking on outdoor adventures.

“Taking your furry friend along to explore new trails can be great exercise—but it's important to be aware of the potential dangers you may encounter along the way,” said John D’Ariano, president of NAPPS. “Keep your pet pal close at all times by limiting his leash length; doing so will ensure safety while out on the trails.”

According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), some of the plants that are most toxic to animals are ones that can be found right outside your door. Included in the list of plants that can pose a fatal risk to our furry companions, are:

- Aloe
- American Holly
- American Mandrake
- Arrow-Head Vines
- Azalea
- Baby’s Breath
- Begonia
- Branching Ivy
- Bread and Butter Plant
- Coleus
- Elephant Ears

While hiking with your playful pet pal, stay alert and monitor his curiosity; exploring new land will certainly excite your pet and introduce his taste buds to temptations—be sure you're aware of potentially dangerous plants during your travels. Keep safety in mind and err on the side of caution when you encounter unfamiliar plants—and animals.

NAPPS encourages pet parents to build a portable first aid kit that can easily fit into a backpack and accompany you and Fido on all outdoor activities. Suggested items include:

- **Gauze** for wrapping wounds
- **Nonstick bandages**, towels, or strips of clean cloth to control bleeding or protect wounds

- **Adhesive tape** for bandages for securing gauze wrap
- **Milk of magnesia** or **activated charcoal** to absorb poison
- **Eye dropper** to give oral treatments or flush wound
- **Muzzle** to cover your pet's head—only if he is not vomiting

The best way to determine if your pet is suffering from an injury or needs medical attention is to evaluate and observe his behavior—when in doubt, contact your veterinarian for their expert opinion.

If your pet has suffered an injury, he will likely need special attention and monitoring to ensure a speedy recovery. Professional pet sitters are able to provide the additional care your pet needs, allowing you the flexibility to return to your regular routine.

About NAPPS

NAPPS is the only national non-profit trade association dedicated to promoting the welfare of animals. The Association aims to help the pet owning public, those interested in pet sitting, and professionals engaged in the in-home pet care industry by fulfilling its vision statement, serving as “the most respected authority in professional pet sitting.” It does so by providing the tools and support to foster the success of its members.

Additionally, pet parents can benefit from NAPPS' free resources including a disaster preparedness guide, tips on how to select a pet sitter, nationwide referral service, and quarterly teleconferences aimed to educate the pet owning public. To find a pet sitter in your area, check out NAPPS' nationwide “Pet Sitter Locator” at www.petsitters.org. For more information on NAPPS, please follow [@TheNAPPS](https://twitter.com/TheNAPPS) on Twitter or join us on Facebook at facebook.com/TheNAPPS.

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