

## Second Hand Smoke and Pets

Recent studies have concluded that tobacco and secondhand smoke are not only dangerous to people but also to pets. Pets inhale second hand smoke. They also lick up toxic chemicals, nicotine, tar and carcinogens that accumulate on their fur after the smoke in the air settles. They can also suffer consequences of accidentally eating tobacco products

By way of grooming habits, cats lick smoke particles trapped in their fur that makes them more susceptible to oral cancers. This is especially true for indoor cats. Cats exposed to second hand smoke are also susceptible to malignant lymphoma.

Dogs who breathe second hand smoke have increased incidents of nasal and lung cancers. Oral cancers are less of a canine issue as dogs are often outdoors and are usually groomed by washing.

Other health risks for pets exposed to second hand smoke include eye and skin irritations, respiratory issues, lethargy and depression.

Dogs and cats have a tendency to chew on anything. This may include discarded tobacco products. It only takes a small amount of nicotine to cause serious illness or even death to a pet.

A bird's respiratory system is hypersensitive to any type of pollutant in the air. The most serious consequences of secondhand smoke exposure in pet birds are pneumonia or lung cancer.

The surest way for pet owners to protect their pets from second hand smoke is to stop smoking.



Americans for Nonsmokers Rights: [www.no-smoke.org](http://www.no-smoke.org)

Paws: [www.pawssf.org](http://www.pawssf.org)

Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University: [www.vet.tufts.edu](http://www.vet.tufts.edu)