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Our top tips for safely mixing your pets with Spring cleaning

- When tackling the worst culprits—i.e., those behind your TV or computer, in corners where the hair can gather in big clumps and on furniture, we recommend using a damp cloth
- Clean ceiling fans with a sponge or a cloth to keep dust and hair from launching off onto furniture
- Pass a wet or dry cloth over window ledges and between blinds
- Replace old or worn filters in air conditioners and air ducts to keep your inside air clean for you and your pets
- We highly suggest regularly brushing your cats and dogs to eliminate dead fur

Spring Forward To Pet Safe Cleaning



March 20th officially marks the beginning of Spring, which for many, is the perfect time to get cleaning. While pet lovers may say it's easy to love their furry friends, it can be harder to love the mess pets can leave on rugs, floors and furniture, not to mention the build up of pet hair and dust.

So, as we gear up to scrub down, the West Chelsea Veterinary

The good news is, most household cleaners can safely be used when the directions on the label are followed precisely and when they are kept out of reach from curious pets. Bleach based products can do a great job when it comes to disinfecting household surfaces, and even slobbery pet toys, when used appropriately. However, if your pet is exposed to these chemicals, even in small doses, they can cause stomach upset, drooling, vomiting, diarrhea and oral burns if ingested in a high-enough concentration. "Our best advice is to always be aware that pets are at risk of becoming ill when exposed, so keep your veterinarian's number handy and call us if you suspect your pet has come into contact."

According to Veterinary Pet Insurance, their policyholders spent more than \$6.6 million between 2005 and 2009 treating their pets for poisonings

team is arming you with our best pet safe cleaning tips that are sure to keep your pets, and your pad, in tip-top shape.

Before you break out that bottle of bleach or leave your detergent unattended, give these tips some thought:

- Household chemicals, like bleach, detergents, toilet bowl cleaner, acids and alkalis can cause corrosive injury to the mouth and stomach
- Other household items like batteries and liquid potpourri can cause similar problems
- Make sure wet floors are fully dried before you allow pets to trample through—chemicals stick to paws, which can be licked later
- When in doubt, consult with your veterinarian for pet safe cleaning recommendations

"As a general rule, we recommend always keeping these toxins behind securely locked doors," recommends West Chelsea practice manager Liz Luboja. "Also, be sure to use household cleaners in the way the product's label reads and then store them securely when you're finished. If the label states, 'Keep pets and children away from area until dry,' we highly recommend sticking to those orders implicitly to avoid potential problems," says Liz.

Battling Pet Hair, Dust and Dander: Try This at Home

Neat freaks know that hair and dust can quickly create a layer on surfaces and hide in the hardest places to reach.

- A simple mix of baking soda and warm water makes a good general purpose cleaner
- A water and vinegar mix makes a great glass cleaner and plain old rubbing alcohol can be an excellent disinfectant

✓ YOUR PET'S HOME

When cleaning for Spring, don't forget about your pet's space.

- Regularly disinfecting litter boxes, toys, beds and crates will almost certainly create a more sterile and fresh environment for every creature in the household
- Run blankets, towels, harnesses and fluffy toy items through the laundry and clean any plastic toys by hand
- If your pet is fearful of sprays or mists, place them in another room until you're done
- Make sure you dump out and rinse buckets you use thoroughly after cleaning so your pet isn't tempted to have a drink
- Some chemical vapors can be irritating to you and your pet, so make sure your house is aired out during and after cleaning

Meet Dr. Nikita Singhani!



West Chelsea Veterinary is proud to welcome Dr. Nikita Singhani to our veterinary team.

Dr. Singhani is a native of the New York/New Jersey area. She obtained her undergrad degree at NYU and attended veterinary school at North Carolina State University,

School of Veterinary Medicine. She completed a year-long internship in small animal medicine and surgery at Oradell Animal Hospital in New Jersey and has since worked as emergency veterinarian at a large referral hospital in northern Westchester County.

Dr. Singhani knew at an early age she would dedicate her life to the well-being of animals. She grew up in an animal-loving family, but experienced her real career 'spark' during a trip to India as a child. After witnessing the heartbreaking plight of the stray animal population there, she knew her life path would lead to caring for animals. In fact, Dr. Singhani never forgot that

first experience and has since returned to India to volunteer at Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Animal Hospital, which is the largest, charity-run animal hospital and shelter in New Delhi.

In her down time, Dr. Singhani enjoys dancing, traveling, playing piano and alto-saxophone. She shares her life with 'Savannah,' a Boxer/Hound mix who she adopted from a shelter in North Carolina.

