



. . . but your cigarettes are hurting me.  
Remember, when you smoke . . . so does your pet.

## **Secondhand Smoke and Your Pet**

### **People who smoke at home could be putting their pets at risk.**

1. Chemicals from cigarette smoke can be found in animals' bodies for a long period of time. In fact, measurable levels of carcinogens can be found in dogs' hair and urine for months after exposure.
2. Cats exposed to secondhand smoke have an increased chance of developing a type of oral cancer commonly found in smokers – called squamous cell carcinoma – possibly because the carcinogens in smoke can settle on cats' fur and cats can pick them up as they groom themselves.
3. Cats exposed to secondhand smoke have an increased incidence of developing intestinal cancer.
4. Just like their human families, pets can develop respiratory infections, lung inflammation, and asthma when exposed to secondhand smoke.
5. Only 15% of cigarette smoke is actually inhaled by the smoker – the rest is dispersed into the atmosphere, exposing people and pets to over 4,000 toxins, including over 40 known cancer-causing substances and carbon monoxide.
6. Research has proven that cigarette smoke is related to several health – related illnesses in pets. A study found that the exposure of environmental tobacco smoke is linked to nasal and sinus cancer in pet dogs. Short-nosed dog breeds seemed to have more lung cancer and long-nosed breeds the nasal cancer.
7. In addition to pet dogs, a study exposing hamsters to doses of cigarette smoke demonstrated that the inhalation of secondhand cigarette smoke inhibits their reproduction.
8. Discarded cigarette butts are very toxic to dogs when eaten and can be fatal.
9. Passive smoke has also been shown to significantly increase blood pressure in rabbits.
10. Cats that live with cigarette smokers are twice as likely to develop feline lymphoma, a deadly cancer of the blood and immune system.
11. Giving up smoking will not only improve the smoker's health but their animal's health too, and can even cut vet costs. It's long been proven that secondhand smoke affects children's bronchial health; it's not surprising that animals also suffer from exposure to carcinogen-laden smoke.