WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

A growing concern in the U.S. is the use of prescription opioids and other medications that are intended for pet consumption, but are obtained by individuals for illicit use. Additionally, prescription drugs that are intended for animals can also pose health risks for pet owners around the home.

PROPER DISPOSAL

Improper disposal of prescription opioids and other medications is harmful to humans and animals. Make sure to always dispose of your expired or unused prescriptions in a safe, and responsible way. Learn more about safe disposal of medicines, visit VaAware. Learn more about proper storage of fentanyl patches from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration.

Each year, Virginia law enforcement participates in nationally recognized drug take-back days hosted by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

HOME SAFETY TIPS

- Consult a veterinarian immediately if you suspect your pet has been inadvertently exposed to a prescription drug, or shows symptoms such as vomiting, seizing or other illness.

- Prescriptions should be stored securely in a locked cabinet or container to help avoid accidental exposure or unauthorized use.

- Flushing prescription drugs down the drain can contaminate water sources and may potentially harm humans and animals that ingest them.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine
https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/vet

U.S. Food & Drug Administration
https://www.fda.gov

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
https://www.dea.gov

VaAware
https://vaaware.com