



## *Protecting Your Pet from Pesticides*

- Maintain your lawn with organic, chemical-free products or hire an organic lawn service.
- Keep pets off lawns that display yellow pesticide application warning flags.
- If your pet has been on a pesticide-treated lawn, wash their paws with mild soap and water before they groom themselves, walk on carpeting or lie on upholstered furniture.
- Keep lawns mowed and natural areas free of tall grasses and weeds to limit the chance of ticks coming into contact with your pet. Check your pet daily during tick season.
- For flea control, groom pets regularly with a flea comb, bathe them frequently, vacuum indoor spaces and wash bedding to kill larvae.
- Flea infestations are best controlled with non-toxic heat treatments and traps.
- Limit indoor pest control to bait stations, which should be inaccessible to pets.

# Pets & Pesticides

## *What You Need to Know*

- Common lawn care pesticides are known to pose a serious risk to your pet's health, including several types of cancer, respiratory and reproductive problems and endocrine disruption. Pesticide residues can remain on lawns for weeks or months after applications.
- Studies show that dogs exposed to 2,4-D, a common herbicide found in "Weed 'n Feed" products, were 30% more likely to develop canine lymphoma, bladder and testicular cancer.
- Dogs and cats use their noses to explore their outdoor environment, absorbing pesticides into their bodies through this mucous membrane pathway. Cats are particularly vulnerable to accidental ingestion due to their typical grooming habits.
- Secondary poisoning may occur if your pet eats mice, other small rodents or insects who have been intentionally poisoned with pesticides.
- Flea and tick control products (powders, shampoos, sprays, topical creams, ointments and collars) often contain insecticides which can be toxic to your pet's nervous system and can cause other serious health problems. Talk to your vet about less toxic oral flea tablets.
- Direct contact with pesticides used for indoor pest control, such as foggers, powders and granules can also put your pets at risk. Pesticide residues on carpets, furniture and in the air can remain inside your home long after application.
- People, especially small children, may increase their own risk of pesticide exposure because of their close contact with their companion pets.

*Information obtained from: Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Journal of the American Veterinary Assoc., American Journal of Epidemiology, Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine and University of Massachusetts School of Public Health.*