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# St. Patrick's Day Safety Tips

For many, St. Patrick's Day is a holiday that certainly warrants a celebration! But like most holidays, St. Patrick's Day can bring with it an array of potential dangers for your pets. Popular party treats, like alcohol, and other festive, good-luck charms might not bring good fortune to your furry friends if ingested. So the [ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center \(APCC\)](#) wants to make sure you've got all the facts to ensure that March 17 will be nothing but fun for you and your four-legged friends.

## The Buzz on Beer



Green beer and other alcoholic beverages are a big part of St. Paddy's Day celebrations. Unfortunately, many dogs and cats will happily lap up anything left out, and APCC receives many calls about animals who have gotten into unattended alcoholic drinks around this time of year.

Typically, signs of depression and drunkenness in pets appear within an hour of ingestion and can include:

- Difficulty walking
- Stomach upset
- Coma

One of the biggest concerns with intoxicated pets is that they will vomit and inhale it into their lungs and contract pneumonia, which can be very severe.

To avoid alcohol toxicity, APCC never placing drinks where they are accessible to your pets. Even better, keep your pets in a safe, quiet room away from the action until your celebrations are over.

For the full article, go to:

<https://www.asPCA.org/news/dont-press-your-luck-keep-your-pets-happy-and-healthy-st-patricks-day>

## The Unlucky Truth About Shamrocks



Many people look to the shamrock as a sign of good luck. The common name "shamrock" can actually refer to several different plants, but usually calls to APCC regarding this plant are referring to [Oxalis spp.](#), which has been proven to be toxic to animals.

This plant can cause stomach upset, drooling and immediate head shaking or tremors. Large amounts can cause low blood calcium and damage to the kidneys. In rare cases, kidney failure has been seen.

The good news: these plants taste fairly bitter, meaning that most animals won't be tempted, but that doesn't mean it never happens. If your pet ingest shamrocks, call your veterinarian or APCC immediately.

*If you have any reason to suspect your pet has ingested something toxic, please contact your veterinarian or the APCC at (888) 426-4435.*