

# Secondhand Smoke and Pets



## SECONDHAND SMOKE HARMS PETS

- In the U.S., almost twice as many households have pets than have children under age 18.[1]
- About one-fifth of pet owners are cigarette smokers.[2]
- Because pets, like small children, spend time near the floor where smoke residue concentrates, they may be at high risk of exposure to secondhand and thirdhand smoke.[2, 3]
- Thirdhand smoke is residue that lingers after the smoke is gone and can be found on clothing, sofas, and carpeting.[3]

## SECONDHAND SMOKE HURTS DOGS

- Exposure to cigarette smoke may lead to asthma symptoms, lung cancer and other forms of cancer in dogs.[4]
- Cotinine, a by-product of nicotine, has been found in the urine of dogs exposed to secondhand smoke in the home; dogs in non-smoking homes showed no cotinine.[4]
- Dogs in homes of smokers were more likely to have difficulty breathing and more likely to develop lung diseases than those in nonsmoking homes.[4]
- Long-nosed dog breeds have an increased risk for nasal cancer because the smoke stays in the nose longer. Short-nosed dog breeds have an increased risk for lung cancer because the smoke is not filtered in the nose and it goes directly into the lungs.[5]
- The animal's size also impacts health risks. Smaller dogs spend more time in intimate contact with their owners and are closer to cigarette smoke.[4]

## SECONDHAND SMOKE PUTS CATS AT RISK

- Secondhand smoke increases the risk that cats will develop lymphoma, a cancer of the immune system.[6]
- Cats that live in a household with a smoker have a 2-fold increase in risk of oral cancer.[6]
- Cats whose owners reported smoking 1-19 cigarettes per day had a significant (4-fold) increase in the risk of oral cancer compared to cats in nonsmoking households.[6]
- While grooming, cats consume the cancer-causing chemicals that accumulate on their fur. The constant grooming exposes the mucous membranes in the throat to cancer-causing chemicals.[7]

**No tobacco smoke in  
your home and car  
means healthier, happier  
pets!**



1. Hovell, M.F., & Irvin, V. L. , *The public health significance of ETS exposure of dogs and other pets* Nicotine & Tobacco Research, 2007. 9(11): p. 2.
2. Milberger, S.M., Davis, R. M., & Holm, A. L., *Pet owners' attitudes and behaviours related to smoking and second-hand smoke: A pilot study.* . Tobacco Control, 2009. 18(2): p. 2.
3. Matt, G.E., Quintana, P. J., Hovell, M. F., Bernert, J. T., Song, S., Novianti, N., Juarez, T., Floro, J., Gehman, C., Garcia, M., & Larson, S. , *Households contaminated by environmental tobacco smoke: Sources of infant exposures.* Tobacco Control, 2004. 13(29): p. 8.
4. Roza, M.R., Viegas, C. A., *The dog as a passive smoker: Effects of exposure to environmental cigarette smoke on domestic dogs.* Nicotine & Tobacco Research, 2007. 9(11): p. 5.
5. Reif, J.S., Bruns, C., & Lower, K. S. , *Cancer of the nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses and exposure to environmental tobacco smoke in pet dogs.* American Journal of Epidemiology, 1998. 147(5): p. 4.
6. Bertone, E.R., Snyder, L. A., & Moore, A. S. , *Environmental tobacco smoke and risk of malignant lymphoma in pet cats.* . American Journal of Epidemiology, 2002. 156: p. 5.
7. Snyder, L.A., et al., *p53 expression and environmental tobacco smoke exposure in feline oral squamous cell carcinoma.* Vet Pathol, 2004. 41(3): p. 209-14.

*For more information, contact the Kentucky Center for Smoke-free Policy  
University of Kentucky College of Nursing, 859-323-4587 or [www.kcsp.uky.edu](http://www.kcsp.uky.edu).*