

NYC Quits!

Secondhand Smoke and Pets

When you smoke, your pets smoke too. Adopting a smoke-free lifestyle can help you and your pets lead a longer, healthier life.

What are the health effects?

- Like humans, animals can get cancer from breathing secondhand smoke. Dogs with owners who smoke are at higher risk of getting nasal and lung cancer. Cats are more likely to develop malignant lymphomas, a type of cancer that can cause early death.

How are pets exposed?

- Through secondhand smoke. Many pets, like cats and dogs, spend a lot of time near the floor where nicotine levels in smoke are high. By swallowing dropped cigarette butts. Butts may still contain nicotine and can be toxic to pets.

What about pets that do not spend time near the floor?

- Animals that are not near the floor, like birds, still breathe in secondhand smoke.

How can pets be protected?

- Making small changes in your home can go a long way. A few simple steps can keep your family, friends AND pets healthy.



Eliminate hazards

- Pets often try eating things within easy reach. Throw away your cigarette butts and be sure none fall on the floor. The nicotine in patches and gum can harm pets, so store them in a safe place, out of reach of your pets.

Be alert

- Keep alert to signs of cancer in your pets. The ASPCA web site has a list of common signs of cancer in both [cats](#) and [dogs](#). Remember to take your pet to the veterinarian for regular checkups.

More Information and Help to Quit

- Call 311 or visit www.nysmokefree.com.
- [Click here for a list of quit-smoking programs by borough.](#)

Clear the air

- Make your home smoke-free. Quitting smoking and having a smoke-free home protects you, your family and your pets from the deadly effects of smoking and secondhand smoke. [Click here for tips on making your home smoke-free.](#)