## **ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS**

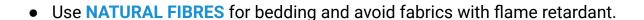
Environmental chemicals, allergens and toxins can all play a part in ours and our pet's health so it's worth considering all exposures including medications and interventions.



## **HOW DO ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AFFECT PETS?**

Absorption may occur through the skin, airways or gut and can put a large load on the liver and other organs. Whilst some factors cannot be eliminated, they may be minimised where possible.

- Use stainless steel or ceramic BOWLS. Avoid plastic
- Use WATER FILTERS to minimise chemicals
- Choose DETERGENTS & CLEANING AGENTS that are natural, biodegradable and perfume-free for bedding, floors and dishes
- Avoid or minimise HERBICIDES & PESTICIDES and avoid contact for 24+ hours



- Consider the nature of **SURFACES** that pets spend a lot of time lying on
- Minimise PLASTIC FURNITURE polyvinyl chloride
- Minimise exposure to FLAME RETARDANTS a group of chemicals that are added to manufactured materials including those for furniture, electronics and building insulation
- Keep pets away from NEW FURNITURE & FLOORINGS including carpets for 48+ hours, due to the release of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's)
- Use NATURAL SHAMPOOS, SOAPS & FLEA REPELLENTS such as neem soap bars
- Caution when RE-DECORATING choose eco-paints and plan for dust control etc.
  Be aware of old lead paint and asbestos



- Avoid the use of INCENSE and some ESSENTIAL OILS around pets
- Consider contact with INDOOR AND OUTDOOR PLANTS which may be toxic or irritant. Many dogs are sensitive to contact with Tradescantia (Wandering Jew).
- Avoid exposure to FRAGRANCE or INSECT SPRAYS



- Minimise AUTOMATIC FLY SPRAY dispensers - they are toxic and can cause harm if used incorrectly
- Use an AIR PURIFIER if the house is mouldy or near busy roads and keep the house well VENTILATED
- Avoid MOISTURE when heating homes and DUST with a damp cloth
- Monitor regularly for fleas to FLEA TREAT as needed. Consider topical Advantage or plain Revolution. Take some caution with Isoxazoline flea treatments.
- Consider a FAECAL EGG COUNT with your primary vet, to check for an indication of worms
- Consider TITRE TESTING with your primary vet, to check whether a dog already has sufficient antibodies to parvovirus and distemper