



### **ANTIFREEZE POISONING**

A winter hazard is the fluid from your vehicle's radiator. Antifreeze is very sweet tasting, and dogs and cats will readily drink it. **It is deadly!** Antifreeze contains ethylene glycol. When ingested, the glycol is converted by the body to oxalic acid. This oxalic acid then forms crystals, which obstruct the kidneys, causing irreversible damage. Eventually, the kidneys fail; the animal goes into kidney failure, and then dies. The lethal dose for an average cat is only two teaspoons and for a twenty-pound dog, a mere quarter cup.

Signs of antifreeze poisoning: Delirium, stupor, breathing problems, drooling, vomiting, convulsions, coma, and death.

If your animal has ingested any amount of antifreeze, do not wait for signs to appear! If signs of poisoning are evident, the chances for survival are slim, so get your pet to *Windsor Animal Hospital* as soon as possible! Treatment includes pumping the stomach, injections of antidote, intravenous fluids to help save the kidneys, and hospitalization for 3 to 7 days. The injections prevent the conversion of the ethylene glycol to dangerous metabolites, which destroy the kidneys.

Prevention is the best care. Keep all containers used in flushing your vehicle's radiator washed and out of reach. Do not allow the fluid to drain into the street. Collect all the fluid and dispose of it immediately and ecologically. Animals are attracted to antifreeze, and it takes only a small amount to cause problems. Please be careful.