



LIESSE ANIMAL CLINIC

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Dr. R. J. Langill ~ Serving the community since 1950

PROTECT YOUR PET FROM POISONOUS PLANTS

Many pet owners worry that their pet might someday eat something poisonous. Although most of us associate poisonings with rat baits and antifreeze, many common plants are also dangerous to your pet. That's why it is important to know which plants are toxic, how to prevent a poisoning, and how to recognize the symptoms of plant poisoning in pets.

In cats, and small dogs, even a small amount of a toxic plant may be lethal. Even brushing up against some toxic plants may be dangerous, as the sap that is on the pet's fur may be licked off while the pet is grooming itself.

In the event that a poisoning has occurred, you should be aware of the symptoms and what to do about them. But prevention is better, and that includes recognizing toxic plants and keeping them away from your pet. Below are some guidelines to follow:

PET OWNERS GUIDE TO POISON PREVENTION

- Discourage your pet from getting near any plants, toxic or not.
- Give plenty of suitable toys to play with.
- Provide your pet with a well balanced diet, and never offer anything that you would not eat yourself. Carrot tops and rhubarb are very toxic.
- If you are not sure if a plant is toxic or not, keep it out of your pet's reach.
- Flower bulbs are toxic. If you have bulbs in your house, keep them in containers where your pet cannot get near them.
- Pets are at risk from any plant treated with an insecticide or fungicide. If you must use these products, assume that the plant is toxic.
- Keep your pet away from any plant suffering from mold, mildew, fungal or viral disease. Even if the plant is not toxic, the disease could make your pet sick.

SYMPTOMS OF PLANT POISONING

- The most common symptoms are: repeated vomiting, diarrhea, refusal to eat, pale gums, swollen or cut tongue, abdominal pain, and convulsions. If your pet shows any of these symptoms, act quickly.
- If the pet has not vomited, it is recommended to induce vomiting at home. A few teaspoons of salt, orally, should work well. Get veterinary advice.
- Take the pet to your veterinarian *immediately*. If you know what your pet ate, it will be a big help.

Hibiscus	Vomiting, gastroenteritis, ulcers
Eater Lily Tiger Lily	Severe renal failure (cats only)
Mistletoe	Gastro-enteritis, cardiac irregularities
Dumbcane Elephant Ear Philodendron	Irritation and paralysis of mouth, pharynx, esophagus, etc.
Daffodils Wisteria Amaryllis	Nausea, vomiting
English Ivy Iris Yew species Daphne	Intestinal irritation, e.g. salivation, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea
English Holly Poinsettia Narcissus Hyacinth Common Box Crown of Thorns Eunymus Honeysuckle Jonquil	Gastro-enteritis
Bittersweet Nightshades Jerusalem Cherry	Vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea, CNS stimulation, depression, cardiac arrest
Lily of the Valley Foxglove Oleander Larkspur Aconite	Vomiting, abdominal pain, bradycardia, cardiac arrhythmias
Azalea Rhododendron Laurel Rose Bay	Salivation, tearing and nasal discharge, vomiting, bradycardia, paralysis, coma
Hydrangea	Cyanide like poisoning; vomiting, dyspnea, coma, bright red venous blood
Castor Bean Pecatory Bean	Abdominal pain, vomiting, depression, weakness, hypotension, possible coma