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What Plants Are Safe for Your House Pets?

Cats, dogs and birds are incorrigible plant chewers, and this can be hard not only on your plants, but also on your pets--if they happen to chew the wrong plants. Most plants are lovely additions to home or garden, but some hide deadly poisons in their leaves, seeds, flowers or berries. These poisons can affect the gastrointestinal system, cardiovascular system or nervous system, and may even cause death. It's important to know what plants are in your home and yard, and what symptoms poisonous plants can cause.

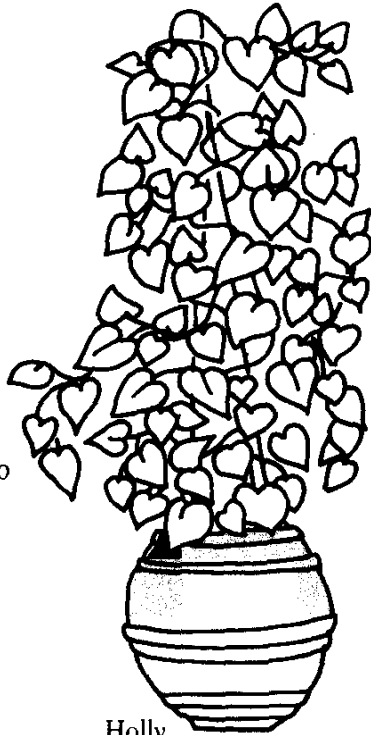
Plants containing saps or resins may irritate a pet's mouth, pharynx or esophagus, causing excessive salivation, swelling, vomiting, abnormal heart rhythms, labored breathing, collapse, gastroenteritis, skin rashes and itching.

Some plants can cause blood abnormalities, such as anemia or jaundice, urinary tract disorders and kidney damage. Signs to look for are pale gums, yellow eye whites or bloody urine.

Other signs of poisoning include depression, aberrant behavior or shaking. If your pet shows any of these symptoms, take note of the plants it may have had access to and call us immediately.

It would be impossible to list all the plants that may be dangerous to pets, but the chart below lists some common plants that are considered poisonous to cats, dogs and birds. Items starred (*) are safe for birds.

Azalea
 Boxwood
 Bulb flowers:
 Amaryllis,
 Daffodil,
 Hyacinth,
 Iris
 Caladium
 Chrysanthemum
 Creeping Charlie/
 Pilea
 Dieffenbachia
 (dumb cane)
 Elephant ears/Taro
 Foxglove
 Fruit pits:
 almond,
 apples,
 apricot,
 cherry,
 peach,
 pear,
 plum
 Hemlock



Holly
 Hydrangea,
 Ivy (all varieties)

Jerusalem cherry
 Jimson weed/Thorn apple

 Lantana
 Larkspur/Delphinium
 Lily of the Valley
 Marigold*
 Marijuana
 Mistletoe
 Monkshood
 Morning glory
 Nightshade (all varieties)
 Oleander

 Philodendron
 Poinsettia
 Pothos
 Privet
 Rhododendron
 Spider mum
 Weeping fig
 (*Ficus benjamina*)
 Wisteria
 Yew

You don't have to give up your plants to protect your pets, though. There are plenty of safe, beautiful live plants that both you and your pet can enjoy. If you are in doubt about any plant, check with us or the local poison hotline. The chart below lists some common plants that are safe for pets.

African violet	Norfolk
Aloe	Island Pine
Baby Tears	Palms
Bamboo	Pepperomia
Begonia	Prayer plant
Bougainvillea	Petunia
Coleus	Wandering Jew
Jade plant	Zebra plant
Kalanchoe	