



Protect Your Pet

From Harmful Garden Plants This Summer

How plants poison pets...

Dogs

- Puppies are most at risk as they tend to chew plants, flowers and bulbs more than adult dogs



Cats

- Poisoning from outdoor plants is very rare in cats (poisonings due to indoor cats ingesting houseplants are more common)
- Young inquisitive cats and kittens are most at risk
- During grooming, cats may accidentally ingest bits of poisonous plant or seeds caught in their coat.



Rabbits

- Rabbits may ingest poisonous plants if :
 - they are mixed in with their usual food
 - there is no other food available
- Rabbits are unable to vomit, so any ingested plant will go right through their digestive system.



What To Do if You Think Your Pet Has Ingested a Poisonous Plant

Signs of plant poisoning often include drooling, mouth irritation, vomiting, and diarrhoea. If you suspect your pet has eaten a harmful plant:

- 1** Immediately prevent any further access to the plant
- 2** Contact our practice immediately; **do not wait for symptoms** to appear
- 3** Do not try and make your cat or dog vomit (rabbits are unable to vomit) unless specifically directed by one of our vets
- 4** Try and recall when and how much of the plant may have been ingested
- 5** Watch your pet carefully for any abnormal signs
- 6** Bring your pet and the plant with you to the practice

What Happens at the Vets?

- 1** A specific antidote is given if one is available. However, there are very few antidotes to plant toxins.
- 2** Vomiting may be induced medically, if it is not too long since the plant was ingested
- 3** Supportive treatment is provided:
 - To relieve any symptoms that develop
 - To help maintain organ function
 - To help clear toxins out of your pets system as quickly as possible

Commonly Found Plants that are Harmful to Dogs, Cats and Rabbits



AZALEAS and RHODODENRONS

- All parts of the plant can be harmful if chewed or swallowed
- Ingestion can cause irritation of the mouth, vomiting, diarrhoea, depression, breathing difficulties and a high heart rate
- Severe cases can cause an irregular heart beat, drop in blood pressure, severe weakness of the legs, in-coordination and can even be fatal.



DAFFODILS

- All parts are harmful if eaten, but the bulbs are particularly toxic
- Can cause a skin reaction
- Ingestion can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, an irregular heart beat, tremors, convulsions, and a serious drop in blood pressure.
- Signs can be seen from 15 minutes to one day following ingestion
- Can be fatal



ENGLISH IVY

- Ingestion of leaves and berries can cause, drooling, vomiting and diarrhoea
- In severe cases there may be blood present in the vomit and faeces
- Contact with ivy can also cause itchy skin reactions with a rash and sore, reddened eyes



FOXGLOVE

- Leaves and seeds are harmful
- Ingestion can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, an irregular heart beat, and even heart failure and death.



RHUBARB

- Ingestion of large amounts of the leaves can cause drooling, kidney failure, tremors and can potentially be fatal.



TULIPS

- All parts are harmful if eaten, but the bulbs are particularly toxic
- Considered less toxic than daffodils
- Can cause a skin reaction, mouth irritation, drooling, vomiting, diarrhoea, and depression.



LILY OF THE VALLEY

- Leaves, flowers and the roots can be harmful
- Ingestion can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, an irregular heart-beat, low blood pressure and disorientation
- Severe cases can develop seizures and coma.