INFORMATION ON TOXIC PLANTS

Poisonous Plants and Your Dog

Dogs are very inquisitive. Sniffing, smelling, and tasting almost anything in sight are natural behaviors for a dog. For that reason, dogs may ingest items other than their food and including toxic or poisonous plants.

Areas inside and outside hold different threats for your dog. In the house, dogs usually get themselves in trouble when they are bored. Outside it's usually the dog's curiosity that endangers them.

The most common problem in the house is the ingestion of rat poison, which can be very tasty to your dog, but has a compound that can cause a life-threatening bleeding. There are many other poisons in the house that your dog can ingest, such as human medication, cleaning solutions, chocolate, antifreeze, yard chemicals stored in the house and, of course, some house plants.

In order to prevent poisoning by houseplants, you should not buy and place houseplants in your home that will put your dog in danger. Outside, there is a constant problem of ingesting poisonous plants. Adding bran flakes to your dog's food or switching its diet to one higher in vegetable fibers, should help satisfy their desire for plant matter. (If so, then perhaps the chewing of plants was due to a lack of fiber in your dog's diet.) The only other thing to do is to monitor your dog's 'picking' behavior when walking outside. When you see symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, difficult breathing, abnormal urine (color, smell, frequency, etc.), salivation, weakness, and any other abnormal condition take your dog to the veterinarian; it may be poisoned. You can also call the ASPCA animal poison control center at 888.426.4435 for help. It's open 24 hours a day.

Toxic Plants List

The following is a list of Toxic Plants that your cat & dog should avoid. This list is not intended to be a complete list. If you have questions, consult your Veterinarian.

Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa L.*)
Alocasia
Aloe vera
Amaryllis
Asparagus fern
Autumn crocus
Avocado
Azalea
Baby's breath
Banberry
Bayonet
Bear grass
Beech
Belladonna
Bird of paradise
Bittersweet
Black-eyed susan
Black locust
Bleeding heart

Bloodroot
Bluebonnet
Boxwood
Branching ivy
Buckeye
Buddhist pine
Buttercup
Cactus, Candelabra
Caladium
Calla lily
Castor bean (*Ricinus communis L.*)
Ceriman
Charming Dieffenbachia
Cherries – most wild varieties
Cherry, ground
Cherry, laurel
Chinaberry
Chinese evergreen
Christmas rose
Chrysanthemum
Cineraria
Clematis
Cordatum
Coriaria
Cornstalk plant
Cornflower
Corydalis
Crocus, autumn
Croton
Crown of thorns
Cuban Laurel
Cutleaf Philodenron
Cycads
Cyclamen
Daffodil (*Narcissus spp.*)
Daphne
Datura
Deadly nightshade
Death Camas
Delphinium
Devil’s ivy
Dicentra
Dieffenbachia
Dracaena palm
Dragon tree
Dumb Cane
Easter lily
Eggplant

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Text and list adapted from Cornell University, ASPCA, and Purdue University websites.

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