

Poisonous Plants Every Pet Guardian Should Know

Family Matters

Our homes and gardens are filled with beautiful plants that brighten our lives.

Unfortunately, some of them can be dangerous for the pets who share them with us.

Dogs and cats don't know which plants are safe and which are poisonous. Puppies may chew out of curiosity, kittens often play with dangling leaves, and some pets simply enjoy exploring with their mouths.

At Amity, we believe that preventing poisoning is far better than treating it. That's why our purpose is to **Empower You Through Education**, helping you create a safer environment for every member of your family.

Not Every Plant Is Pet-Friendly

Many common houseplants and garden plants can cause illness if eaten.

Some cause only mild stomach upset, while others can damage vital organs or become life-threatening.

The good news is that most poisoning incidents are entirely preventable.

Plants to Be Aware Of

Some of the more common poisonous plants include:

- Lilies (especially dangerous for cats).
- Daffodils.
- Tulips.
- Bluebells.
- Foxgloves.
- Rhododendrons and azaleas.
- Yew.
- Sago palms.
- Dieffenbachia (Dumb Cane).
- Peace lilies.
- Ivy.

This isn't a complete list, so if you're unsure about a particular plant, it's always worth checking before bringing it into your home or garden.

Cats and Lilies – A Medical Emergency

One plant deserves a special mention.

Lilies are extremely poisonous to cats.

Even nibbling a leaf, drinking water from a vase containing lilies or getting pollen on their coat and grooming it off can cause severe kidney failure.

If you think your cat has been exposed to lilies, seek veterinary attention immediately. Early treatment can make all the difference.

Signs of Plant Poisoning

Symptoms vary depending on the plant, but may include:

- Vomiting or diarrhoea.
- Drooling.
- Loss of appetite.
- Lethargy.
- Tremors or seizures.
- Difficulty breathing.
- Collapse.

Some toxins act quickly, while others may take hours or even days before signs appear.

Prevention Is Simple

The safest approach is to avoid keeping highly toxic plants where your pets can reach them.

If you enjoy gardening or houseplants, choose pet-safe alternatives whenever possible.

Supervise curious puppies and kittens outdoors, and remember that bulbs, seeds and fallen leaves can be just as hazardous as the flowers themselves.

What Should You Do?

If you think your pet has eaten a poisonous plant, don't wait to see if they become unwell.

Contact your veterinary practice immediately.

If possible, take a photograph of the plant or bring a sample with you. Knowing exactly what your pet has eaten helps us recommend the most appropriate treatment as quickly as possible.

A Safe Home Is a Happy Home

Most pets never realise the dangers around them.

They trust us to make safe choices on their behalf.

A few simple precautions today can prevent a frightening emergency tomorrow.

At Amity, we're always happy to advise whether a plant is safe for your pet. We'd much rather answer a question before there's a problem than treat a poisoning after one has occurred.

Because your home should be a place where every member of the family can thrive.

Because they're not just your pet.

They're family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.