Protect Your Pet
From Harmful Garden Plants This Summer

How plants poison pets...

Dogs
- As puppies are so curious, they are the most at risk of eating poisonous plants. If possible, keep plants, flowers and bulbs out of their reach.

Cats
- It’s rare that cats will ingest outdoor plants, but indoor cats are more likely to be poisoned by houseplants.
- Young cats and kittens are most at risk since they’re interested in new objects.
- It is also possible for cats to ingest parts of poisonous plants or seeds caught in their fur during grooming.

Rabbits
- There are a few ways that rabbits may ingest poisonous plants:
  - If they are mixed into their food.
  - When no other food is available.
- As rabbits are unable to vomit, the poison has no way of being removed and will travel through their digestive system.

Steps To Take If You Think Your Pet Has Eaten a Poisonous Plant

There are many signs of plant poisoning, including drooling, mouth irritation, vomiting, and diarrhoea. If you see these, you should:

1. Remove the plant from your pet’s reach.
2. Get in touch with us immediately, even if there are no symptoms yet.
3. Avoid forcing your pet to vomit unless one of our vets has directed you to do this (and keep in mind that rabbits are unable to vomit).
4. Try to work out when the plant was ingested and how much of it.
5. Keep an eye out for any symptoms.
6. Come to our practice with your pet and the plant.

What Happens Next?

1. An antidote is administered if one is available. Although plant toxins have very few antidotes so this may not be possible.
2. We may induce vomiting in your pet. If the plant was eaten within a certain time period.
3. Supportive treatment is carried out:
   - To alleviate any symptoms as they happen.
   - To keep organs functioning normally.
   - To remove toxins from your pet's system.

Common Plants that can be Harmful to Dogs, Cats and Rabbits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AZALEAS and RHODODENDRONS</strong></td>
<td>If chewed or swallowed, all parts of these plants can cause negative side effects. These can include irritation of the mouth, vomiting, diarrhoea, depression, breathing difficulties and an increased heart rate. In severe cases, your pet may suffer from an irregular heartbeat, a drop in blood pressure, severe weakness of the legs, un-coordination and it can even be fatal.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DAFFODILS</strong></td>
<td>All parts can be harmful if eaten, but the bulbs are especially toxic. If your pet eats this plant, they may suffer from a skin reaction, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, an irregular heartbeat, tremors, convulsions and a decreased in blood pressure. These symptoms may begin to show within 15 minutes of the plant being eaten. Potentially fatal.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FOXGLOVE</strong></td>
<td>Harmful leaves and seeds. This plant can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, an irregular heartbeat, heart failure, and in worst case scenarios, even death. Potentially fatal.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LILIES</strong></td>
<td>All parts are poisonous, including the stems, pollen, flowers, bulbs and vase water. Signs of toxicity include vomiting, anaemia, depression, and kidney failure. Potentially fatal.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ENGLISH IVY</strong></td>
<td>The leaves and berries of this plant can cause drooling, vomiting and diarrhoea when eaten. There may also be blood in your pet’s vomit and faeces. Coming into contact with ivy may cause itchy skin reactions like a rash, sore, and reddened eyes. Potentially fatal.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RHUBARB</strong></td>
<td>Eating large amounts of this plant can cause symptoms such as drooling, kidney failure, tremors and can potentially be fatal to your pet. All parts of this plant can be harmful to your pet, but the bulbs are especially toxic. Even so, tulips are still considered to be less toxic than daffodils. Symptoms of ingestion can include a skin reaction, mouth irritation, drooling, vomiting, diarrhoea, and depression.</td>
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<td><strong>TULIPS</strong></td>
<td>All parts of this plant can be harmful to your pet, but the bulbs are especially toxic. Even so, tulips are still considered to be less toxic than daffodils. Symptoms of ingestion can include a skin reaction, mouth irritation, drooling, vomiting, diarrhoea, and depression.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LILY OF THE VALLEY</strong></td>
<td>The leaves, flowers and roots can be harmful. This plant can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, irregular heart beat, low blood pressure and disorientation. In severe cases, your pet may develop seizures and go into a coma.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If you would like further advice about the possible hazards of any garden or houseplants, please don’t hesitate to phone your local vet practice and speak to a member of our staff.