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608-222-2269

Pets by nature are curious creatures. That will, at times, get them into some trouble. It's important to strike a balance between being able to have all the beautiful plants you would like in your home, garden and landscape and also keeping your pets (and children!) safe.

There is no substitute for providing a safe environment and all of us at America's Best Flowers want you to do that for your pet and for yourselves. You can use this information to help make informed decisions about what are the right plant choices for you and your family. There are so many gorgeous plants; some which you would never know hold potentially life threatening risks for your pet.

Any plant ingested by your dog or cat may cause some vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, skin irritations or other symptoms of toxicity regardless of whether it is considered "toxic to pets" or not. If your pet does consume a plant or a portion of a plant, it's important to know what the plant is, how much your pet consumed and how long ago it was that they consumed it. If you suspect your pet has been exposed to a toxic plant or any other poisonous substance, call your veterinarian or get them to an emergency veterinary clinic or hospital immediately!

Below we have provided the contact information for two organizations that specialize in pet poisonings. They can assist in determining if a plant is poisonous or not. Please note that both of these organizations do charge a fee for their service (charged to your credit card), but the cost is worth the potential to save your pet's life.

**Pet Poison Hotline:**

<http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com>

24/7 Animal Poison Control Center

**(855) 764-7661**

**ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals):**

<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control>

24 hours a day/365 days a year

**(888) 426-4435**

This is the contact information for two of Dane County's emergency veterinary services:

**Veterinary Emergency Services**

4902 E Broadway Madison

**(608) 222-2455**

**Veterinary Emergency Services**

1612 North High Point Road, Middleton

**(608) 831-1101**

You may even want to print this page and put it on your refrigerator to have in case an emergency happens.

As we venture further into fall and the holidays approach, we'd like to specifically mention those plants common during this time of year and other potential toxicity sources of which pet parents should be mindful.

### **Toxic Plants:**

Amaryllis	Holly	Hyacinth
Azaleas	Mistletoe	Winterberry
Cyclamen	Paperwhite	

Poinsettia- The common myth is that poinsettias are poisonous. They *can* cause gastrointestinal distress and irritations, but unless they would be consumed in very high quantities, they are not actually poisonous.

Interested in a more complete list of toxic plants? [Link here.](#)

### **Other Toxins Common in October, November and December:**

Halloween Candy: Both chocolate and the artificial sweetener xylitol, found in candy and gum, are poisonous.

Glow Sticks: Everyone has seen kids run around with these at Halloween. However, when the trick-or-treating is over, these should be disposed of properly and not left where your cat can chew on them causing drooling and foaming at the mouth if they manage to puncture one.

Foods containing Raisins, Grapes and Currants (Fruitcake!): Many people do not know that consumption of these things cause kidney failure in dogs.

Table Scraps: Ohhhh, the amount of food consumed during this time period! Always a little extra for Fido or Fifi right?! Think again. Table scraps of fatty meats cause inflammation of the pancreas in dogs and cats (pancreatitis) because they can't handle the extra fat.

Alcohol: Need we say more...

Imported Snow Globes: These contain antifreeze which is fatal in small doses (as little as 1 teaspoon).

Liquid Potpourri: Cats love to lick things and this is no exception.

Mushrooms: These grow all over outside and because some have a "fishy" odor, they are very appealing to puppies who want to eat everything.

Mouse and Rat Poisons (Rodenticides): Fall is moving time for rodents of all kinds. If you are considering using a poison bait, make sure you understand all the risks to your pet, even if your pet doesn't directly ingest the bait itself.

Tinsel: Cats see tinsel as a shiny new toy and they may end up ingesting it. If they do, chances are it may severely injure or rupture their intestines.

This is by no means an all-inclusive list of everywhere your pet can find trouble. The list of toxic plants is meant only as a guide and is not intended to be used solely for judging whether a plant is toxic or not. Always consult a veterinarian, a pet poison control organization, an emergency veterinary hospital or some other animal professional when it comes to the health and well-being of your pet.

We recommend always erring on the side of caution and while many of us are animal-lovers, we state explicitly that our expertise is in plants only. All data on plant toxicity was taken from the ASPCA and Pet Poison Helpline websites and America's Best Flowers shall not be held liable for any errors, misrepresentations, omissions or falsehoods. The burden of verification of all toxicity data falls upon the pet parent.