

## Plants of low toxicity

Not all plants are considered to be toxic but any plant material may cause some gastrointestinal signs such as vomiting and diarrhoea. Plants of low toxicity to cats and dogs include:

- Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*)
- Holly (*Ilex* species)
- Mistletoe (*Viscum album*)
- Christmas trees
- Ivy (*Hedera* species)
- Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster* species)
- False castor oil plant (*Fatsia japonica*)
- Fuchsia species
- Rose (*Rosa* species)
- Tulips (*Tulipa* species)
- Crocus (*Crocus* species)
- Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* species)
- Chrysanthemum species
- Hyacinth (*Hyacinthus orientalis*)

## General advice

- If you have a cat do not grow lilies in your home or garden.
- Remove any lilies from bouquets of flowers and dispose of safely.
- If your pet is prone to chew houseplants check if they are toxic and if concerned remove them from the home.
- When pruning in the garden, try and keep your dog out of the way and remove the cuttings promptly.

## What to do if you think your pet has been poisoned

### EMERGENCY ADVICE

- Call Animal PoisonLine on 01202 509000 **even if your pet is showing no signs** to find out whether a trip to the vet is required.
- Remove your pet from the source of poison.
- Do not try to make your pet vomit – NEVER give salt water.
- Collect the poison and take a sample/ container with you if you are advised to take your pet to the vet practice.



[www.animalpoisonline.co.uk](http://www.animalpoisonline.co.uk)  
24 hours a day (charges apply)



Animal PoisonLine is run by the VPIS, the UK's only animal poison centre, which has provided advice to vets on the management of poisoning in animals for over 25 years.



## PLANTS AND POISONS





## Overview

There are many different types of plants found in the home and garden. Some plants contain toxic compounds that have adverse effects on various body organs (e.g. the heart, kidneys or liver) whereas others are of low toxicity. It is also important to note that some plants that are toxic to cats may not be toxic to dogs and vice versa.

### ACORNS

Acorns from oaks (*Quercus* species) may cause vomiting and diarrhoea. Occasionally an itchy rash and swelling of the lips or around the eyes occurs. There is also a risk that the acorns may block the gut.

### CONKERS

Conkers from the horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) can cause gastrointestinal signs. If swallowed whole or in large chunks there is also a risk that the conkers may obstruct the gut.

### CYCADS

These plants (mainly Sago Palm, *Cycas revoluta*), even ingested in small amounts, can cause gastrointestinal effects, severe liver damage and death if ingested.

### DAFFODILS

Daffodils (*Narcissus* species) contains irritant compounds that can cause drooling, vomiting and diarrhoea. Severe cases are uncommon but there are reports of collapse, slow heart rate, low blood pressure and low body temperature.

### HOPS

Hops (*Humulus lupulus*), either as spent hops from brewing or the plant itself, can cause a very high body temperature in dogs. Deaths have been reported in dogs after ingestion of hops.

### LABURNUM

This plant can cause gastrointestinal signs and increased heart rate. There is also the risk of tremor, twitching and high body temperature.

### LILIES

Lilies i.e. the *Lilium* (true lily) and *Hermerocallis* (day lily) species, are poisonous to cats and cause kidney failure. This is not seen in dogs who are only at risk of gastrointestinal upset.

### PEACE LILY

Clinical effects reported after ingestion of peace lily (*Spathiphyllum* species) include drooling, diarrhoea, vomiting, lethargy, ataxia and thirst. Kidney failure has been reported in a small number of cats.

### PIERIS AND RHODODENDRON

These plants can cause gastrointestinal signs and potentially weakness, slow heart rate and low blood pressure.