Are You Growing Poison?

by James Fangmeier

Homes with small children are, in most cases, "child proofed". This means the parents have placed hazardous objects and substances out of reach or locked them away to keep the children from injuring themselves. But how many homes have taken the same type of precautions when it comes to their pets?

It isn't just chemicals and medications that can be harmful to our pets – many common house and garden plants can be toxic as well.

If you suspect your animal has swallowed a poisonous plant, try to determine how much was swallowed. Call your Veterinarian IMMEDIATELY and follow his or her instructions. The poisoned animal's best chance for recovery will rely on your actions.

There is, of course, no better cure than prevention. If you aren't willing to part with some of your plants, at least place them out of the animal's reach, limit the animal's access to areas outside where poisonous plants exist or let them out only under supervision. The animal won't miss the plants or roaming into that particular area, and you can rest easier knowing you have removed a potentially fatal hazard from your pet's life.

Below is a list prepared by the Humane Society of Santa Clara, California, of some common plants that may cause irritation, illness or death if they are ingested by pets. ■

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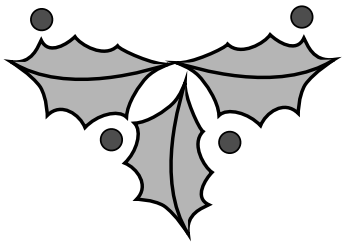

PLANT	POISONOUS PARTS
Azalea	Entire plant
Bittersweet	Bark, leaves, seeds
Black locust	Bark, leaves, berries
Boxwood	Bark, leaves
Buckeye/Horse chestnut	Sprouts, nuts, seeds
Buttercup	Bark, leaves
Caladium	Entire plant
Castor Bean	Entire plant
Crocus	Entire plant
Daffodil	Bulbs
Daphne	Bark, leaves, flowers
Dumb cane	Entire plant
Foxglove	Leaves
Fruits: almond, apple, apricot cherry, peach, pear, plum	Seed pits
Hemlock	Entire plant
Holly	Leaves, berries
Hyacinth	Entire plant
Hydrangea	Entire plant
Ivy, English and Baltic	Leaves, berries
Jerusalem cherry	Entire plant
Jimsom weed/Thorn apple	Entire plant
Larkspur/Delphinium	Leaves, seeds, young plants
Lily of the valley	Leaves, flowers
Marigold	Entire plant
Marijuana	Resinous substance
Mistletoe	White berries
Monkshood	Entire plant
Morning glory	Seeds, roots
Mountain laurel	Entire plant
Nightshade	Entire plant
Oleander	Entire plant
Philodendron	Entire plant
Poinsettia	Entire plant
Poison ivy, oak and sumac	Entire Plant
Pokeberry	Entire Plant
Potato	Ripe and unripe tubers, sprouts
Rhododendron	Entire plant
Rhubarb	Leaves
Tobacco	Entire plant
Walnut	Green shells
Wisteria	Entire plant
Yew	Entire plant