

Poisonous plants and foods

This chart may be used as a guide to preventing your dog's exposure to poisonous plants, foods and other items. If you suspect your dog has been exposed to a poisonous substance call your vet immediately.

House Plants	Description	Symptoms
Spider Plant Cyclamen	Common house plant with long stripy leaves. Grown from rhizomes.	Vomiting, convulsions, local irritation.
Poinsettia	Favourite Christmas plant with milky sap.	Irritates mucous membranes, excessive salivation & vomiting.
Philodendron	Climbing vines with shiny leaves & aerial roots.	Immediate pain, local irritation to mucous membrane, renal failure.
Mother-in-laws Tongue	Succulent tall erect pointed leaves.	Vomiting & diarrhoea.
Jerusalem Cherry	Popular Christmas plant with berries.	Vomiting & diarrhoea.
Garden Plants	Description	Symptoms
Foxglove	Common biennial, all parts poisonous.	Acute abdominal pain, vomiting, bloody diarrhoea.
Holly	Evergreen with berries.	Abdominal pains, vomiting & Diarrhoea.
Mistletoe	Perennial parasitic.	Vomiting, profuse diarrhoea, etc., death from cardiovascular collapse within hours.
Daffodils & Hyacinths	Bulbs in storage may be accessible to pets.	Vomiting & diarrhoea, occasionally death.
Azalea & Rhododendrons	Evergreen or deciduous shrub.	Within hours of ingestion of toxic dose, salivation, vomiting, diarrhoea, convulsions, coma, death.
Yew	Evergreen, fleshy red berries, very poisonous.	Nervousness, trembling, death.

Foods	Symptoms
Grapes & Raisins	Both grapes and raisins can cause acute renal failure. Early signs are vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal tenderness and lethargy.
Chocolate	Chocolate contains theobromine which dogs are particularly sensitive to. Clinical signs of 'chocolate poisoning' are vomiting, hyperactivity, restlessness, rapid respiration, raised heartbeat, muscle tremors and seizures.
Garlic & Onions	Both Garlic and Onions contain thiosulfate which causes haemolytic anaemia in dogs.

Other Items	Symptoms
Human Medication i.e. Aspirin Ibuprofen	All of these can cause severe symptoms in dogs. Signs can include vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pain.
Slug Pellets	Slug pellets contain metaldehyde which can cause excitement and seizures followed by depression and collapse.
Antifreeze	Antifreeze has a sweet taste that is palatable to dogs. Signs which include vomiting, wobbliness, dehydration and thirst, usually occur within 1 hour of poisoning.
Cocoa Mulch	Cocoa mulch can be particularly appealing to dogs due to its 'chocolate' smell. It contains theobromine (see symptoms for chocolate overleaf).
Tea Tree Oil	Tea tree oil (<i>Melaleuca alternifolia</i>) contains toxic cyclic terpenes.
Mouse and rat poison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ingestion is common in dogs. Third generation products contain brodifacoum or bromadiolone and are toxic after a single ingestion. Signs include spontaneous and excessive bleeding internally and externally. Treatment is with Vitamin K supplementation. • Other rodenticides may contain cholecalciferol which causes hypercalcemia and leads to heart and kidney problems. Newer rodenticides may contain bromethalin a diphenylamine, which is a neurotoxicant that causes respiratory arrest from inadequate nerve impulse transmission after fluid build-up and demyelination inside the central nervous system. • Signs such as seizures, muscle tremors and depression.
Insecticides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonly contain either organophosphates or carbamates. They can be absorbed through the skin, conjunctiva, gastrointestinal tract, and lungs. Toxicity occurs through over dosage (flea treatments) or use of an agricultural product. • Signs for both include hypersalivation, vomiting, lethargy, tremors, difficulty walking, weakness and death.

What to do if you suspect poisoning

Suspected chemical poisoning:

- Contact your vet immediately.
- Assess for danger; if it's too dangerous to do anything, don't do it.
- Make the area safe by improving ventilation, e.g. open windows and doors.
- If the area is safe, assess the condition of the dog - look for blood, breakages, burns, check for breathing. Do not get contaminated yourself - wear gloves and cover skin.
- If the area is safe, move the dog away from the poison.

Suspected ingested poisoning:

- Remove the poisonous substance immediately.
- Call your vet for advice immediately with information regarding the poison, e.g. what it is and how much the dog has consumed and the status of the dog e.g. vomiting, coughing, unconscious etc.
- Check your dog and monitor their behaviour.