

Kittens Love to Play With Ribbons and Strings: However, if these are swallowed, they can get caught on the base of the tongue or in the stomach and cause serious problems with the intestines. Strings and ribbons often have to be surgically removed if they are swallowed. Also watch out for the cords on curtains and blinds. Many cats and kittens think they are toys and can easily get hung up in them.

Poisonous Plants: Here is a limited list of plants that can cause serious problems in your pets:

-Morning Glory

-Philodendron, Elephant Ear, Dieffenbachia, Jack-in-the-Pulpit—Can cause pain and irritation upon chewing

-Sago plants

-Milkweed, Lily-of-the-Valley, Oleander, Laurel, Azalea, Foxglove, Rhododendron—Can cause heart rhythm abnormalities.

-Buttercup—GI problems (vomiting/diarrhea)

-Dumbcane

-Plant bulbs—Daffodil, Hyacinths, Tulips

-Onion, Garlic and Chives—can cause anemia, especially in cats.

-Lilies-Day Lily, Easter Lily, Tiger Lily—causes kidney failure in cats.

-Christmas Plants—Poinsettia—oral and GI irritation. Mistletoe—GI and Heart (pulse) problems, and Holly—like chocolate, contains theobromine.



This is not a complete list. If your pet ingests any part of a plant you are not sure about, call poison control or your veterinarian. Many plants have the same common name—keep a record of the scientific name of the plants (which can usually be found on the package or label). This will help poison control or your veterinarian determine if the plant is in fact poisonous.

*University of Illinois is a good source.

Other things to Remember:

- Young animals, like children, can crawl into plastic bags and suffocate.
- Tobacco (Nicotine) is toxic to pets. Keep ashtrays and cigarette butts cleaned up and out of reach.
- Keep covers on pools and hot tubs. Young animals may not be able to swim well.
- Watch out for hot irons, space heaters, coffee pots, etc. Young animals can easily get burned if they knock them down or jump onto counters when they're on.
- Always use a fireplace screen.
 - Keep off chemically treated lawn. Follow directions as to when it's ok to allow them back onto the grass.

