

CAT SAFE PLANTS FOR MAINE COON CATS?

Want to add some stimulation to your cats environment? Maybe you just enjoy having plants to beautify your home and purify the air. Selecting plants to enhance and engage your cat is a wonderful way to decrease boredom. Plants can also provide small amounts of trace minerals, vitamins and add fiber to the diet.

Safety First!

When selecting plants for your home it is very important that they are safe for your Maine Coon cat. Bamboo, Catnip, Wheatgrass, Boston Fern and Spider Plant are all safe choices to have within the household. Be sure to choose plants carefully and make sure they are non-toxic. Many plants such as: Poinsettia, Mistletoe, Azalea, Chrysanthemum, Cyclamen, Daffodil, Rhododendron, Amaryllis and Holly are toxic to cats. There are many other toxic plants and those that may not be deadly, but could cause harmful side effects. Often times we receive ornamental plants as gifts around the holidays or during other special occasions. Be sure to keep plants and flower arrangements out of reach until you verify they are safe for your feline companion. Many well-meaning friends may gift plants without considering that your furry feline may come in contact with them or make a snack out of them. Many flower arrangements also have dyes or other chemicals applied so keep this in mind. Sometimes these are better left at the office than coming into your home.

Signs of Plant Toxicity

If you notice your cat vomiting, having diarrhea, staggering or experiencing mouth and/or throat irritations these are all signs of plant toxicity. Always follow up with your veterinarian if you suspect your cat may have consumed anything toxic, as this can ultimately lead to a premature death, organ failure or other troubling issues.

Don't Forget Plant Food and Fertilizer

Another thing we sometimes forget is that plant foods and fertilizers can also be toxic. Keep plant food and fertilizer stored in a cabinet that is out of reach from household pets. While we often think of child-proofing our home, it is important to cat-proof your home from toxic chemicals and substances. When you apply these substances to the soil be sure that your cat is not able to lick or eat any residue.

Other Benefits

Plants can increase curiosity and play. Providing a stimulating environment is a wonderful way to provide enrichment. Play is one of the best ways to provide exercise and plants can be the perfect pairing for the two.