



Spring is Here! Let's Grow!

## Is Your Yard Safe for Your Pets?

Spring is finally here. The winter color palate of grays, greens and browns has now exploded into all the colors of the rainbow. It's exciting to see the crocuses and daffodils pop up, breathe in the heavenly scent of the daphnes and flowering trees, touch the soft new leaves emerging from bare twigs. With all this headiness, it's easy to forget that many of these plants we find so appealing in our garden may actually be toxic to our pets. In researching this concern, I was alarmed to find that many of the common plants in our gardens and in open spaces may be poisonous if ingested, especially in large quantities.



Photo above: puppy with dandelion (OK). Photo at top: dog in patch of buttercups (not OK)

In addition to the obvious poisonous plants whose names sound ominous, i.e., poison hemlock and death camas, some of the most highly toxic plants for dogs are: yew, crocus, azalea, nandina, lily of the valley, hosta, foxglove, oleander, and even some tomato and mustard family species.

Lilies and poinsettias are particularly toxic to cats.

If you may be wondering whether you should tear out your entire garden and bring in the gravel, take comfort in these words from the Blessing Landscapes website:

*Should You Care if a Plant is Toxic?*

*After all this fear-mongering, the bottom line is you should have nothing to worry about as long as you use common sense. Most dogs don't eat everything they see. The worst symptoms that these plants exhibit happen mostly if they're ingested. Even if ingested, there's a good chance they'll vomit before it causes serious damage. So continue enjoying your beautiful yard, now that you know which plants not to eat!*

When choosing *new* plants to add to your landscaping, it doesn't hurt to consider the toxicity for pets and slowly transition your yard to be more pet-friendly through your judicious choices.

The reassurance above does not apply to puppies and kittens who explore the world with their mouths. Arming yourself with some knowledge of what is toxic and what is safe can guide you as you supervise your little one in their environment.

Here are some websites that provide more information on plants toxic to our pets:

[Washington State University Poisonous Plants of the Pacific NW](#)

[Blessing Landscapes Common Toxic Plants used in Pacific NW Landscaping](#)

[ASPCA Toxic and Non-toxic plant list - dogs  
Cats](#)

Article contributed by OMPP Board Member, Araya Sol

Visit our website

**Come See Us at the  
Rhody Pet Parade**

**Get that GIVING  
Feeling!**



Once again, our READ to ROVER teams and student READers will be marching in the **Rhody Festival Pet Parade on Thursday afternoon, May 16**. The parade begins at 5:30 pm on Lawrence St. from Van Buren to Taylor.

If you are a participant, check-in at the fire station, corner of Van Buren & Lawrence Streets. Registration begins 4:30 pm.

Come out to cheer us on!



Olympic Mountain Pet Pals is now a registered non-profit in Washington Gives, the organization that sponsors **GiveBIG** in May and **GivingTuesday**, the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. The GiveBIG campaign for 2024 kicked off on **April 23** with early giving and ends with the main event on **May 7 and 8**. When you give to Pet Pals during GiveBIG, good things happen for kids, seniors, and low-income pet families in our Jefferson County community.

The Washington Gives platform makes it easy for new donors to discover non-profits serving the causes they support. The two big fundraising events are designed to create a sense of collective energy around supporting non-profits in Washington State. We are proud to be participating in this broader community effort.

Visit [our GiveBIG page](#) and please **donate!**

## Olympic Mountain Pet Pals

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