Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian
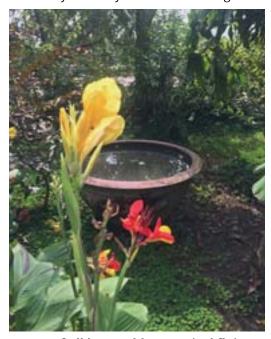
Plants, pets, and poisons

What about garlic and onions? Plants in the Allium family can cause anemia in animals. Certain literature indicates that plants in this family should not be given to pets. Yet, garlic has been a medicinal food for centuries. It is rich in nutrients that boost immunity to numerous ailments. Our family feeds our animals small amounts of raw garlic as an agent to deter worms and repel ticks. Our pets are always healthy. The level of danger must be weighed by you, individually for your animals in concert with the expertise of your veterinarian.

I've always considered goats environmentally correct weed-eating and fertilizing animal machines. If you've ever witnessed hundreds of goats clearing a hillside of blackberry bushes, poison oak, and a variety of tall grasses, it's easy to believe that these ruminants can and will consume anything ... and everything. Yet, there are over 700 species of plants that could cause toxicity in goats. Fortunately for them, their internal antenna steers them away from the poisonous plants unless starvation is a factor.

This is a curated list of "safe plants for pets" culled from numerous research. With that being written, remember that you and your vet know your pet the best, so make sure to double-check that your beloved friend won't eat something harmful at home or while traveling.

Canna of all hues adds a tropical flair.

The spectacular pink naked ladies grow in any soil condition.

Mahonia, AKA Oregon grape.

Muscari, also called grape hyacinth.

alstroemeria	sword fern
aster	celosia
petunias	chervil (French parsley)
bee balm	
orchid	heuchera (coral bells)
statice	
rosemary	daylilies
thyme	Easter lilies
pot marigolds (calendula)	gloxinia
	grape hyacinth
sage	baby tears (stonecrop)
catnip	
basil	hollyhock
lemon balm	ice plant
canna lilies	jasmine
camellias	crape myrtle
fuchsias	mahonia (Oregon grape)
lilac	
nasturtium	plumbago
magnolia bushes (need full sun, purple, pink, white)	rose
	scabious (pincushion flower)
snapdragons	stargazer lily
star jasmine	stevia
ginger lily	strawberry
viburnum	sunflower
African daisy	sweet potato vine
cornflower (Bachelor Buttons)	coreopsis
	torch lily (red hot poker)
rabbit's foot fern	impatiens

Photos Cynthia Brian