

HOW TO MAKE YOUR GARDEN PET FRIENDLY

Worried about your pets spending time in the garden? This guide details how to make a pet friendly garden, so that your four-legged friend can join you and your family in the garden without being worried about them getting into something they shouldn't.



MAKE SURE GARDEN IS SECURE & PATHWAYS ARE PET FRIENDLY

Let's start with the safety measures needed to take place in the garden. The main one being, making sure the garden is secure. To do this, have a look for any area that your pet could get out. For dogs, you will want to make sure all fences or walls are secure as you don't want them to be able to escape.

But for cats, it's the opposite. You will want to make sure that there are ways for them to get into and out of the garden. An effective way to do this would be to add in little steps built into a brick wall or use a trellis to create an area that they can grip as they climb.

Next you will want to consider the types of pathways and flooring you have in the garden. Cats often won't mind any form of flooring but dogs have sensitive paws. We recommend sticking to concrete or other solid materials such as wood on a decking area. Try to avoid using gravel or stone as they can become sharp and hurt your pets' paws.



Photo by Felicia D'Ascanio

TOP 8 PET FRIENDLY PLANTS

As with their want to explore the area, your pets are naturally going to be curious about the plants growing in your garden. With many different scents, the plants in your garden can bring much enjoyment to your pets. But beware, not all plants are pet friendly. We suggest that you check out the PDSA website where they list what plants they suggest keeping away from your pets. Here are our recommended pet friendly plants for your garden.

1



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Camellia

2



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Roses

3



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Magnolia

4



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Petunia

5



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Marigold

6



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Sempervivum Houseleeks

7



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Star Jasmin

8



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Moth Orchids

Please do conduct your own research on these plants before purchasing, we recommend having a look at PDSA for more information.

PROTECT YOUR PETS WHILST IN THE GARDEN

As referenced on the Blue Cross website, these are the symptoms of plant poisoning:

- Drooling
- Not eating
- Low energy
- Vomiting or diarrhea – especially if bits of chewed up plants are in it
- Drinking or weeing more
- Rashes
- Red skin
- Mouth ulcers
- Pale gums
- Twitching or seizures
- Collapse

If your dog shows any of these symptoms or you think they may have eaten a poisonous plant, call your vet immediately.



Photo by Fineas Gavre



Photo by Justin Veenema

Now that the area of your garden is secure and you have some plants they can explore, you need to make sure that your pets stay safe whilst they are in there. This includes keeping pets away from slugs and snails as these can make your pets ill. You may also want to reduce any use of pesticides or pest control, this is because your pets explore their surroundings using their nose and mouth, so chemicals may harm them.

During the summer months, it is natural for your pets to want to spend more time outside. So, make sure to add somewhere with shade for them, this could be under a gazebo, tree or anything else you would like to add shade with. To encourage them under the shade, you could even add an extra bed that can be moved indoor at night-time.

A wonderful way to keep them occupied (and not digging up your plants) would be to add a play area specifically for them, including toys, balance areas and for dogs, adding a sprinkler can bring them some enjoyment in the garden.

Another brilliant idea is to add an outdoor shower, especially if you have dogs. There is nothing worse than getting back from walking the dog on a muddy day, to then have them walk indoors and make a mess all over the house. So, adding a showering area outdoors, even just a hose would work, will make all the difference.



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We hope this has been helpful for all pet owners with gardens, but please remember, before you buy a plant make sure to do some research on whether or not the plant is pet friendly (this goes for houseplants too)

Get in touch

www.GardeningExpress.co.uk

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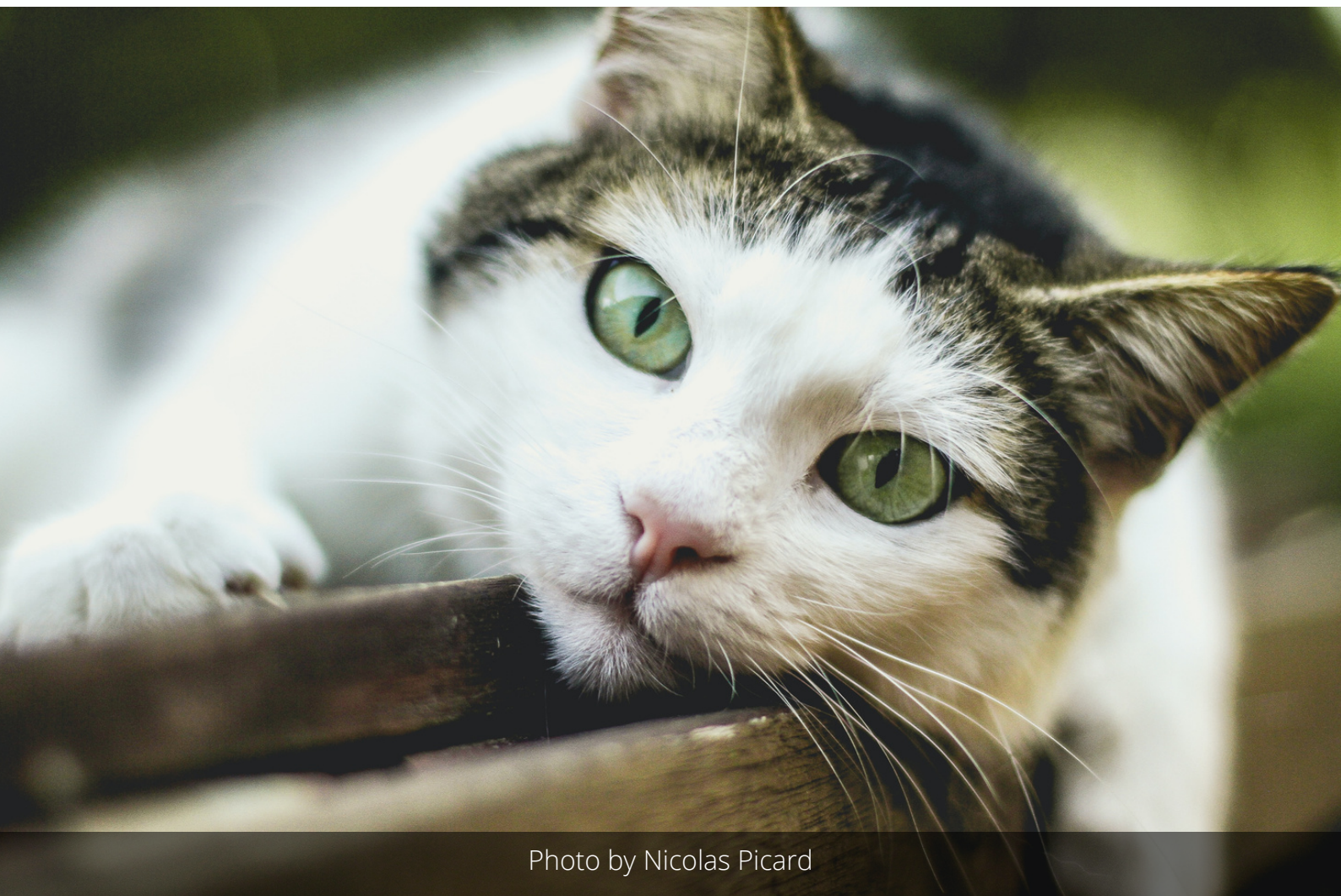


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