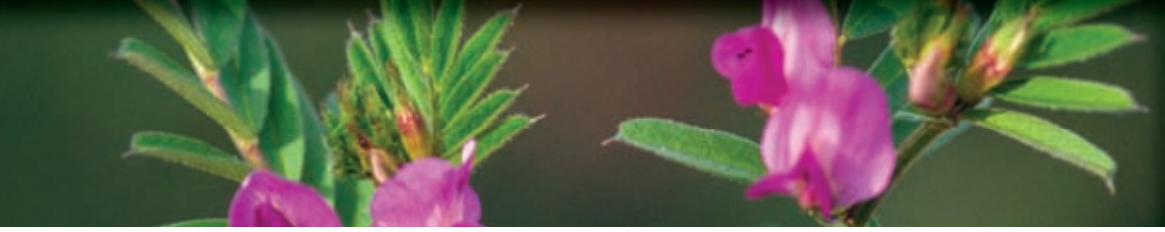
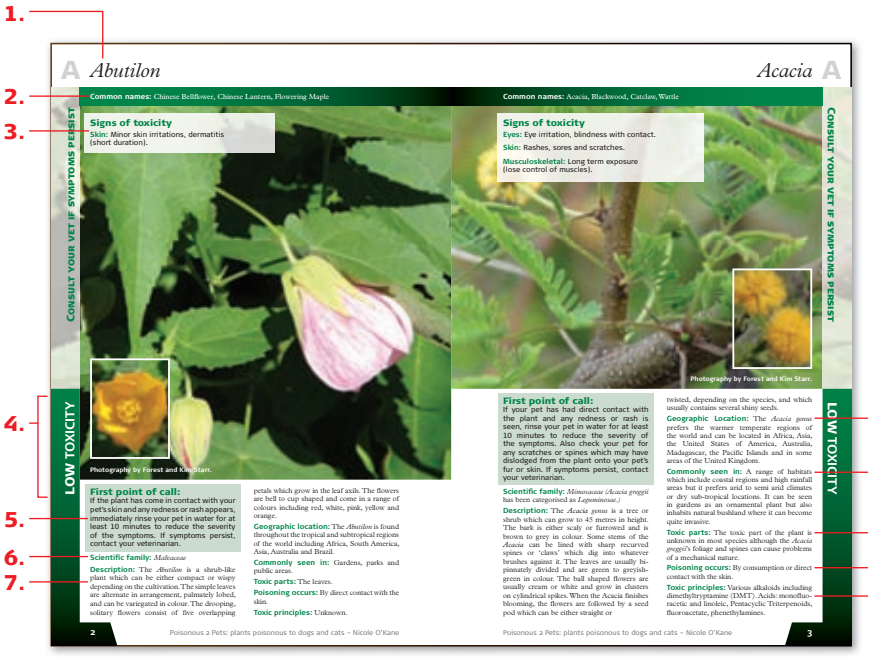


How to use this book



The following short guide is to assist you in using this book to identify those plants which may pose a threat to your pet. The information on each plant described within is organised as follows:

1. The botanical name: The plants in this book are arranged in alphabetical order using their botanical name or latin genus. This makes the plant universally recognised and therefore internationally understood. If you already know the botanical name of the plant you can look it up alphabetically by skimming along the top-outside corner of the page using the alphabetical chapter markers. If you don't know the botanical name of a plant, you can cross-reference it with one of its common names in the listing on page 307. Please be advised that not all of the common names are listed, therefore it is advisable to become familiar with the botanical name of the plant you are looking for.

2. Common names: The plant may have different common names in different countries. Listed under this section are some examples of common names which it may be known by.

3. The signs of toxicity: This boxed section indicated the signs and symptoms that you may see in your pet, subdivided into the different systems of the body. These 11 systems are:

1. Eyes
2. Skin
3. Gatrointestinal
4. Respiratory
5. Cardivascular
6. Musculoskeletal
7. Nervous system
8. Urinary
9. Reproductive
10. Liver
11. General

4. The toxicity level: The toxicity level of each plant is indicated by a coloured strip down the outside edge of each page, ranked from low through to high. This acts as a quick at-a-glance indicator of the action you should take, and whether or not you need to consult your veterinarian immediately. Details of the four toxicity ratings are outlined in the table on the opposite page.

LOW TOXICITY: IRRITANT

Itching, rashes, dermatitis and irritation of the skin, eyes, nose or mouth. Symptoms can also include mild vomiting, diarrhoea or stomach irritation. A low-level toxicity can also imply that poisoning is rare amongst dogs and cats even if the plant is highly toxic. **Consult your vet if symptoms persist.**

MODERATE TOXICITY: ALLERGENIC

In addition to some of the low-level poisoning symptoms mentioned above, hay fever, asthma, sneezing and other breathing difficulties can be observed. **Consult your vet if symptoms persist.**

MODERATELY HIGH TOXICITY: POISONOUS

The symptoms of the previous two toxicity levels can increase in intensity and duration and also include nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and severe gastroenteritis. **If your pet has come into contact with a plant of this level, consult your vet immediately.**

HIGH TOXICITY: VERY POISONOUS

The symptoms of the previous three toxicity levels can increase in intensity and duration, leading to serious illness, organ failure, coma and death. **If your pet has come into contact with a plant of this toxicity level, consult your vet immediately.**

5. First point of call: This coloured panel indicates the first thing that you should do if you suspect that your pet has been in contact with, or has consumed this plant. Please note, this is only the first point of call. If any signs or symptoms persist, or if the plant is moderately to highly toxic, you should contact your veterinarian as soon as possible to obtain further information.

6. The scientific family: This identifies the name of the group to which the plant is related, i.e. plants with similar characteristics.

7. Description: This is a brief description of the plant's characteristics for easier identification (e.g. leaf and flower types).

8. Geographic location: This indicates in which regions throughout the world the plant can be found.

9. Commonly seen in: This identifies the types of habitat the plant would naturally be found in, for example, along the sides of roads, in parks, or as a garden ornamental.

10. The toxic parts: This section identifies the parts of the plant containing the toxic principles and therefore which parts should be avoided.

11. Poisoning occurs: This indicates how the poisoning is caused, e.g. through direct contact with the plant or consumption.

12. Toxic principles: This identifies the specifc chemical components that make the plant toxic, e.g. alkaloids, volatile oils or toxic levels of nitrates.

For ease of identification, each plant is also illustrated on the page using one or two photographs.

Please note that these photographs may indicate one genus in a particular species of plant. Other plants of the same species may be toxic but may have different characteristics to the plant identified in the photographs on the page.