

For a Thanksgiving table shared with cats or dogs, choose flowers such as roses, sunflowers, gerbera daisies, and Phalaenopsis orchids. These flowers are considered nontoxic to cats and dogs, though any plant material can cause an upset stomach if eaten.

Flowers to choose for the table

A pet safe arrangement can still feel right for Thanksgiving. Sunflowers bring warm yellow to the table, while roses and gerbera daisies come in shades of orange, red, cream, and pink. Phalaenopsis orchids offer a quieter look and can be displayed as a potted plant.

These flowers are listed as nontoxic to cats and dogs:

- **Roses:** Remove thorns before arranging them.
- **Sunflowers:** Choose cut stems or a potted plant.
- **Gerbera daisies:** Use them for a bright, low centerpiece.
- **Phalaenopsis orchids:** Keep the pot and any loose bark out of reach.
- **Snapdragons:** Add a little height among shorter flowers.

Ask for each flower by name if someone else is making the arrangement. A bouquet can contain several kinds of flowers and greenery, so a safe main flower does not make the whole arrangement safe.

Seasonal plants to leave out

Chrysanthemums are common in fall arrangements, but they are toxic to cats and dogs. They can cause vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, and skin irritation. Autumn crocus is also toxic and can cause serious illness.

Keep lilies away from cats. Even small exposures to true lilies and daylilies, including pollen or water from the vase, can cause severe kidney damage. If a cat may have had contact with one, call a veterinarian immediately. Do not wait for symptoms.

Check foliage and decorations as carefully as the flowers. Ask for the names of unfamiliar stems rather than guessing from their color or shape.

Make the arrangement safer

Put the vase on a stable surface where a curious pet cannot easily knock it over. Trim rose thorns, pick up fallen petals and leaves, and keep ribbons, pins, and other small decorations out of reach. Even nontoxic flowers can cause discomfort if a pet eats enough of them.

Do not let pets drink vase water. It can contain flower food or material from the stems. Change the water as needed, and empty it somewhere pets cannot reach.

If a pet chews an unfamiliar plant, remove any remaining pieces from reach and call a veterinarian or an animal poison control service. Keep the plant label or take a clear photo to help identify it.

Questions about pets and Thanksgiving flowers

Are all daisies safe for pets?

No. Gerbera daisies are nontoxic to cats and dogs, but the word daisy is used for different plants. Check the exact name before adding one to a bouquet.

Can pets eat safe flowers?

It is best not to let them. Nontoxic means the plant is not expected to poison a cat or dog, but eating plant material may still cause stomach upset.

What if I cannot identify a flower?

Keep it away from pets until you can identify it. If a pet has chewed it, contact a veterinarian for advice and bring a photo or sample if asked.

Have a look at https://greensys2019.org/what-seasonal-really-means-for-cut-flowers-and-how-city/