

Why pets eat plants

The behaviour of pets eating plants is repeated in many gardens all over the United Kingdom. With young dogs especially, the garden becomes a playground of discovery and adventure. Animals explore using their sense of smell and taste and once a delectable source of interest is located, regardless of how repulsive it may appear to us, they focus their attention upon it 100%.

Bark chippings are indeed a great favourite along with the edge of decking panels, rose bushes and the wooden garden gate. Many of us can connect with this image and management of your pet's environment is key to preventing the problem.

A mulch of gravel and cobbles instead of wood or bark chippings, is a good way to discourage digging, foraging and devouring the mulch. Provision of safe chew toys in the garden as an alternative is a good idea. These will keep the dog occupied and stimulated, preventing him getting bored. By occupying your pet and providing sufficient mental stimulation you can avoid the pets need to find their own entertainment, which can sometimes lead to annoying habits like these. Care should also be taken with all pets in the garden to ensure they are kept safe. Weed-killers, Insecticidal sprays, slug pellets, ponds, electric cables supplying water features are all potentially dangerous to animals. Equally the type of plants in your garden can be harmful with common examples including the laurel bush with its shiny leaves and flower bulbs. Your vet will be able to advise you what plants are potentially dangerous to pets.

Pets will digest plant matter to either help regurgitation if feeling unwell, alternatively if an animals diet is lacking in roughage, they will source their own quantity of this by scavenging. Dogs are omnivores and should be provided with a balanced diet. Cats tend to eat grass regularly to help regurgitate fur balls.

Cocoa shell should be avoided as mulch in gardens with pets that have a tendency to scavenge. Cocoa shells can cause pets to become ill very quickly if ingested.