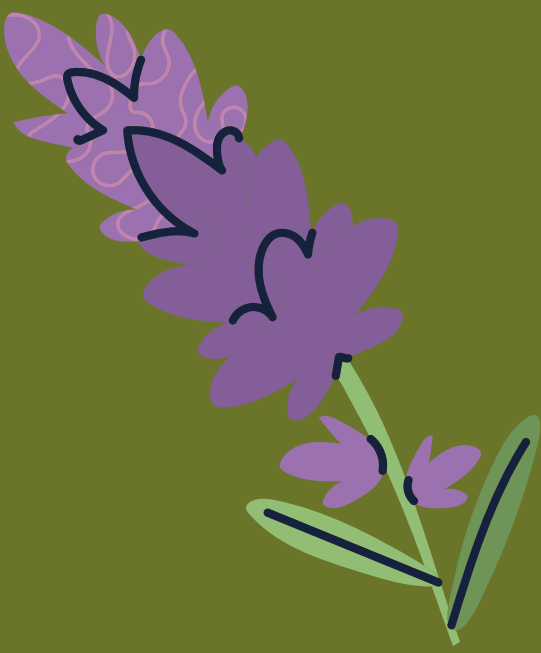


ESSENTIAL OILS CAN HARM YOUR PET

Essential oils make for a popular gift so they are likely to be especially plentiful at Christmas, but it is important to be aware that many of them are toxic to pets.

Cats are particularly susceptible to the dangers of essential oils as they have trouble metabolising them, so if you have a cat you should avoid using essential oils. Dogs are less likely to be poisoned by ingesting or absorbing oils, but many still pose a threat.

What are essential oils?



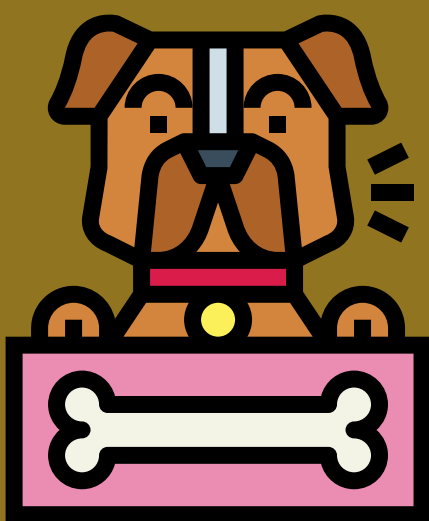
They are concentrated compounds that capture the essence of the plant in their aroma and flavour. They are used therapeutically for a wide range of ailments, from stress to skin conditions, with lavender and peppermint among the most popular.

How are they used?



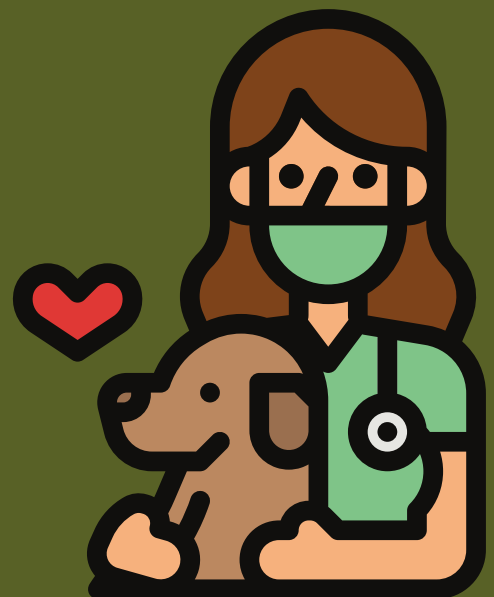
They can be applied to the skin, inhaled, added to a bath, or even eaten. Essential oil diffusers have become popular recently but these can pose a threat to cats and other susceptible pets such as rabbits, guinea pigs and reptiles.

What are the symptoms of poisoning?



If your pet has ingested, inhaled or got essential oils on its paws or coat it might appear depressed, unsteady and have a low body temperature. In severe cases there will likely be vomiting and diarrhoea as well.

In summary:



While some essential oils may benefit dogs, the advice is not to use them if you have a cat, small mammal or reptile in the home, and always consult the friendly team at your local vets before attempting to use them on your dog.

Contact us for advice about essential oils