

## Avocado Ingestion Dangerous to Cats

**The fruit's leaves, seeds and bark contain a toxin unhealthy for pets.**

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While there are a few foods that both humans and pets can enjoy, some foods that are healthy for us can be dangerous to cats and other animal companions. One example is the avocado.

“Avocado leaves, fruit, seeds and bark contain a toxic principle known as persin. The Guatemalan variety, which is the most common variety found in stores, appears to be the most problematic,” according to Dana Farbman, CVT, of the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center.

The primary concern is with gastrointestinal irritation, such as vomiting and diarrhea. Typically, these effects are seen in animals that have ingested significant quantities of fruit or branches.

If you suspect that your cat has eaten avocado — or any other potentially dangerous substance — call your veterinarian or the Poison Control Center's emergency hotline at (888) 426-4435 for 24-hour telephone assistance.

For more information on poison prevention, visit the ASPCA online.