

GROW GRASS INDOORS FOR YOUR PLANT-LOVING PETS

Everyone knows that cats are carnivores. So why does your pet keep snacking on your favorite houseplants? Some experts feel that greens help cats get rid of hairballs, while others believe that cats crave the fiber and moisture contained in the plants. There could possibly be a nutritional component as well: When feeding on prey, a cat may eat the intestines first, which is likely to contain plant matter.

But regardless of the reason for the craving, some plants can prove a serious danger to cats. Many common houseplants — such as lilies, asparagus ferns, and foxglove — are poisonous to our pets. Outdoors, a cat may unwittingly eat grass or other plants contaminated by pesticides and fertilizer.

An easy way to keep your cat satisfied — and safe — is to grow grass indoors for them. “Cat grass” is widely available as seed in pet stores and nurseries. Varieties such as oats, barley, wheat and rye grow quickly and well in a sunny window or under lights.

Wait until the grass is at least two inches high before offering it to your cat. Limit your cat’s snacking to a few minutes a day initially to allow its digestion to adjust. If you find your cat “binging” and then vomiting, continue to restrict its access to the grass. Otherwise, set the grass in an easy-to-reach spot, and let your cat “graze” whenever it likes.

