

Roses, sunflowers, gerbera daisies, snapdragons and phalaenopsis orchids are nontoxic flower choices for a birthday bouquet in a home with dogs. Nontoxic does not mean edible, so keep the arrangement out of reach and check every stem and decorative addition.

Flowers to choose for a birthday bouquet

A bouquet can contain several kinds of flowers and greenery, so ask what is in the whole arrangement. These flowers are recognized as nontoxic to dogs and offer a range of colors and shapes for a birthday gift.

- **Roses:** Classic roses come in many colors. Ask for thorns to be removed, since they can scratch a dog's mouth or paws.
- **Sunflowers:** Their broad yellow heads make a bright centerpiece. Choose a sturdy vase to support their heavy stems.
- **Gerbera daisies:** These large, colorful flowers suit a cheerful bouquet. Check the name, as other flowers called daisies may not be safe for dogs.
- **Snapdragons:** Their tall stems add height and come in several colors. They work well alongside rounder flowers.
- **Phalaenopsis orchids:** These orchids are nontoxic to dogs and can be given as a flowering plant rather than cut stems. Use the full name when choosing one.

Ask the person making the bouquet to identify the foliage and filler flowers too. A safe main flower does not make an unidentified mixed arrangement safe.

Make the arrangement safer at home

Place flowers on a stable surface your dog cannot reach. Even nontoxic plants can cause an upset stomach if a dog eats enough of them, and a fallen vase can break or spill water.

Keep ribbons, wrapping, pins and floral foam away from your dog. These are not food and can cause injury or an obstruction if swallowed. Empty vase water where your dog cannot drink it, particularly if it contains flower food.

Avoid adding toxic flowers just for contrast. Tulips, daffodils and chrysanthemums are toxic to dogs. If you cannot identify a stem, leave it out until you can confirm what it is.

Questions about flowers and dogs

Are roses safe if my dog chews them?

Roses are nontoxic, but thorns can injure your dog. Eating plant material can also cause stomach upset, so take the bouquet away.

Can dogs eat sunflower petals?

Sunflowers are nontoxic to dogs, but petals are not a necessary treat. Eating plant material may upset a dog's stomach.

Is baby's breath safe in a bouquet?

No. Baby's breath is toxic to dogs and can cause stomach upset. Ask for a bouquet without it.

What should I do if my dog eats an unknown flower?

Remove any remaining plant material from reach and contact your veterinarian for advice. Keep the flower or a clear photo for identification, and note how much your dog may have eaten.

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