Aloe Vera Care and Pet Safety Checklist

FitInFlow.space · Aloe vera (family Asphodelaceae). Based on RHS, NC State, Penn State and UF/IFAS Extension, ASPCA and NCCIH. Updated October 2026.

1. Pet safety first

Aloe is toxic to cats, dogs and horses (ASPCA). Signs: vomiting, lethargy, diarrhea.

[ ] Placed out of reach of pets and toddlers [ ] Vet phone number saved: _____

ASPCA Animal Poison Control: (888) 426-4435 (a fee may apply). Wear gloves when handling or dividing.

2. Care at a glance

Light	Water	Soil and pot	Temperature
Brightest window; south or west. Turn every 1 to 2 weeks.	Soak, then let soil dry fully. When in doubt, wait.	Cactus mix or soil + sand + perlite. Clay pot with drainage holes.	Not frost hardy. Bring in before nights reach 41 to 50°F (5 to 10°C).

3. Seasonal guide

Season	Water	Feed	Jobs
Spring	Increase as growth restarts	Begin monthly in late spring	Repot every ~2 years; divide pups
Summer	Most often, only when dry	Monthly	Move outside gradually; check for pests
Fall	Taper off	Stop	Bring indoors before frost
Winter	Sparingly	None	Keep off cold glass and away from heaters

4. Problem solver

You see	Likely cause	Fix
Soft, mushy, see-through leaves	Overwatering, root rot	Unpot, trim black roots, dry, repot in dry gritty mix
Thin, wrinkled, curling leaves	Underwatering	One deep soak
Pale, stretched, floppy	Too little light	Brighter window or grow light
Brown or red patches after a move	Sunburn	Bright indirect light; adjust slowly
White cotton tufts / brown bumps	Mealybugs / scale	Wipe or scrape off; isolate plant

5. Propagating pups

[ ] Pup a few inches tall with its own leaves [ ] Separate in spring or early summer, keeping roots

[ ] Let the cut dry 1 to 2 days [ ] Pot in dry cactus mix [ ] Wait about a week, then water lightly

Leaf cuttings usually rot. Pups are the reliable method.

Do not eat or drink gel from a houseplant: the yellow latex is a strong laxative and oral aloe carries safety concerns (NCCIH). For burns, cool under running water for 20 minutes first (NHS). This checklist is for plant care only and is not medical advice.