Dracaena Care and Pet Safety Checklist

FitInFlow.space · Based on Clemson HGIC, UF/IFAS Extension and ASPCA guidance. Updated October 2026.

1. Care targets

Need	Aim for	Avoid
Light	Bright, indirect; tolerates low light	Hot direct sun on leaves
Water	Thoroughly, once the top of the soil is dry	Soggy soil, full saucers, cold water
Soil	Houseplant mix, pH 6.0 to 6.5, drainage holes	High-perlite mixes
Temperature	60 to 80°F, stable	Below 60°F, drafts, vents, heaters
Feeding	Monthly in spring and summer	Superphosphate, heavy doses, winter feeding

2. Brown-tip fix

[ ] Switch to rainwater, distilled or low-fluoride water [ ] Flush the pot with plenty of water once a season

[ ] Check soil pH (6.0 to 6.5) [ ] Skip superphosphate and high-perlite mixes [ ] Water evenly; raise humidity if below 30 to 40%

Brown tissue will not recover. Trim tips along the leaf shape, leaving a thin brown line.

3. Problem finder

Symptom	Likely cause
Many leaves yellow at once, soft stem base	Overwatering, root rot: let dry, check roots, repot
Slimy spots, sudden leaf drop	Cold below 60°F or drafts
Rust-colored sunken patches	Sunburn: move out of direct sun
Webbing or speckles / brown bumps	Spider mites / scale: wipe leaves, isolate, repeat weekly
Lower leaves yellow slowly, one at a time	Normal aging

4. Propagate in spring or late summer

Cut the top 6 to 8 inches of a cane > root it in water or moist mix > pot up once roots form > the stump re-sprouts below the cut.

5. Pet safety (ASPCA): toxic to cats and dogs; corn plant also toxic to horses

Signs: vomiting (sometimes with blood), drooling, loss of appetite, depression, dilated pupils in cats.

Call your vet or ASPCA Animal Poison Control: (888) 426-4435 (fee may apply). Child ate a plant? US Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222.

6. Watering log

Date	Soil dry on top?	Watered / flushed?	Fed?	Notes (new leaves, tips, pests)

Dracaenas do not measurably purify home air (Cummings and Waring, 2019). Feng Shui and folklore are cultural traditions, not health claims.