Lucky Bamboo Care and Pet Safety Checklist

FitInFlow.space · Dracaena sanderiana · Based on UF/IFAS Extension, RHS and ASPCA guidance. Updated October 2026.

1. Pet safety

Toxic to cats and dogs (ASPCA lists Dracaena; toxic compounds are saponins). Signs: vomiting, drooling, low appetite, depression; dilated pupils in cats.

If a pet chews it: call your vet or ASPCA Animal Poison Control **(888) 426-4435**. Child ate some? US Poison Control **1-800-222-1222**.

[ ] Placed on a high shelf, closed room or hanging planter, out of reach of pets and small children

2. Care basics

Need	What to do
Water	Distilled, rain or filtered. Keep roots covered; change every 1 to 2 weeks and rinse the vase.
Light	Bright, indirect. No direct afternoon sun. Quarter-turn the container weekly.
Temperature	70 to 80°F (21 to 27°C) is ideal. Never below 60°F (16°C). Keep away from drafts and vents.
Feeding	Very light: about a fifth of label strength, monthly at most in water; every 2 to 3 months in soil.
Soil option	Pot with drainage holes, fast-draining mix. Water when the surface starts to dry.

3. Yellow-leaf quick check

You see	Likely cause	Fix
Brown tips	Fluoride, chlorine or salts	Switch water; trim tips
Yellow leaves	Direct sun or too much fertilizer	Move to shade; pause feeding
Stalk yellow from bottom	Rot from dirty water	Remove stalk; clean vase
Stalk yellow from top	Cold, sun or chemical stress	Cut above green part; root it
Slimy dark patches	Chilling below 60°F	Move somewhere warmer
Sticky leaves, white fluff	Mealybugs, scale, whiteflies	Rinse; insecticidal soap

4. 12-week water-change log (stick it on the fridge)

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Date												
Done	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

Not bamboo: a Dracaena from west-central tropical Africa (Kew POWO). Feng Shui stalk meanings are folklore. Potted plants do not measurably clean home air (Cummings and Waring, 2019).