

## Avocado Toxicity

Not all avocado species are toxic but Haas, a commercial variety grown in NZ, is with the leaves, fruit, bark and seed containing the toxin persin. Concentrations are relatively low and are generally considered to be harmless to people. Toxicity has been reported in most domestic species except cats and there is variable species sensitivities

In dogs, avocados appear to be of low toxicity and ingestion of large amounts are often necessary to induce signs of toxicity which including vomiting and diarrhoea.

In some bird species, avocado ingestion can lead to myocardial necrosis, respiratory distress, pericardial effusion, and death.

In horses, oedema of the head and pharynx, and occasionally, signs of colic are seen, and in lactating animals of various species reduced milk production and sterile mastitis has been reported.

Diagnosis is dependent on history and clinical signs. There are no tests available to confirm a diagnosis.

