

DARK FOREST

SHARING YOUR HOME WITH PETS

Practical guidance for enjoying Dark Forest scents in a pet-friendly home

Many of our customers share their homes with cats, dogs and other animals. Having pets does not necessarily mean giving up home fragrance, but a few sensible precautions help keep fragrance an enjoyable part of the home for everyone.

Dogs do not generally have the same particular sensitivity to essential oils as cats, so for most dogs the everyday precautions below are all that is needed.

The most important principles are simple: keep the liquid away from pets, avoid direct contact, use fragrance with good ventilation, and give animals the freedom to move away from a scent if they choose.

EVERYDAY GUIDANCE FOR PET-FRIENDLY HOMES

- Keep Botanical Accords, Reed Diffusers and other scent products where pets cannot reach, lick or knock them over.
- Never apply Dark Forest products to an animal's skin or coat, or use them on collars, bedding, toys or other items an animal may lick or groom against.
- Wash your hands before handling your pet if you have scent product on them.
- Position reed diffusers where animals cannot brush against the bottle or reeds.
- Avoid placing fragrance immediately beside pet beds, food and water bowls, litter trays or favourite resting places.
- Use fragrance in a reasonably ventilated room, particularly in smaller spaces.
- Give your pet the choice to leave the fragranced area rather than confining them in it.
- Clean up spills promptly and keep pets away from the affected area until it has been cleaned.

FOR CONTEXT

Not all home fragrance works in the same way. Much of the stronger advice about **airborne oil droplets** relates to ultrasonic or nebulising diffusers, which can create a fine mist that may settle on fur and later be swallowed during grooming. **Dark Forest Reed Diffusers work by passive evaporation instead.** Veterinary guidance says toxic effects from inhaling diluted reed diffusers are rare, although sensible precautions still matter, especially for cats with respiratory conditions.

REED DIFFUSERS

A passive, diluted form of home fragrance. Keep the liquid inaccessible, ventilate normally and let pets move away. Cats with asthma or other respiratory conditions need extra care.

RITUAL SCENTS & WARMERS

Heating releases fragrance more quickly, giving a stronger short-term scent. Use for shorter periods, ventilate well and always let pets move away.

Cats need a little more care: see overleaf.

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A LITTLE EXTRA CARE AROUND CATS

Simple guidance for enjoying Dark Forest scents in a home shared with cats

Cats are particularly sensitive to essential oils. UK veterinary and cat-welfare guidance specifically highlights several oils, including citrus oils, pine and ylang ylang, as ones deserving particular care.

Within the current Dark Forest range, the following accords contain one or more of these highlighted botanical materials:

Accord	Why it is listed
Aonta Éirí Ciúin Ostara / Alban Eilir	Contains Bergamot and other citrus-derived materials, plus Ylang Ylang
Aonta Uachtair Alban Hefin	Contains Neroli Light, which includes citrus-derived aromatic material
Aonta an Chéad Bhronntanais Lughnasadh	Contains a smaller amount of Neroli Light
Aonta Talamhainn Beltane Masculine	Contains Pine essential oil

This doesn't mean that cat owners cannot use these scents. It means being more deliberate about where and when they are used.

IF YOU HAVE A CAT AND CHOOSE ONE OF THESE ACCORDS

- **For a Reed Diffuser:** the best choice is a room your cat does not routinely spend long periods in. Keep the diffuser inaccessible, ventilate the room regularly, and avoid putting it in your cat's principal sleeping or resting area.
- **For a Botanical Accord used to fragrance a room:** use it while your cat has access to another part of the home, then allow the room to air before the cat spends prolonged time there.
- With either format, don't scent your cat's bedding, collar, toys or other surfaces they regularly rub against or groom from.
- If your cat has asthma or another respiratory condition, avoid fragancing the rooms in which they spend their time.

A NOTE ABOUT BIRDS

Birds have particularly sensitive respiratory systems, so room fragrance should not be used in the same room or enclosed airspace as birds.

A HANDY ALTERNATIVE

If you have pets but would still like to enjoy a Botanical Accord close by, consider a scent stone. Add **one or two drops** to a porous scent stone on your desk or another pet-inaccessible surface. This gives a **gentler, more localised scent** than fragancing the whole room. When you have finished, store it safely away where pets cannot lick or rub against it.

Porous lava stone or unfinished wood can also hold fragrance, including suitable scent jewellery. Avoid applying concentrated Botanical Accord where the fragranced part will rest directly against your skin.

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Guidance basis: PDSA, Cats Protection and ASPCA.