

Beautiful But Deadly

While many pet owners know the dangers of various houseplants, most people don't associate cut flowers with these dangers, yet many cut bouquets include flowers from some of the most toxic plants for cats and dogs. What makes it complicated is that we recognize them when they are individual growing plants, but may not even notice them in a mixed bouquet. Some plants cause gastric upset which can be a mess to clean up and is uncomfortable for your cat, but they can also have long-lasting effects such as ulcers in the mouth or digestive tract, and excessive vomiting or diarrhea can dehydrate and even kill a very young or old cat. Other plants more seriously affect a cat's organs and can be deadly within hours, even to a healthy cat.

LILIES IN ALL THEIR FORMS

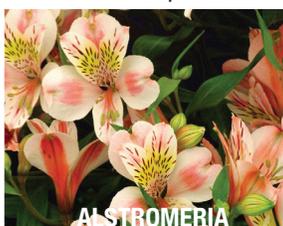
Lilies in just about all their species can cause kidney damage in cats which is permanent and can lead to kidney failure within 48 hours if left untreated.



EASTER LILY



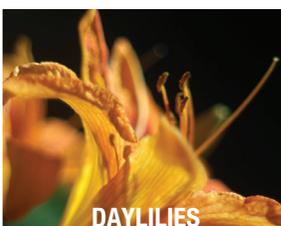
STARGAZER LILY



ALSTROMERIA



STELLA D'ORO LILIES



DAYLILIES

BULB-FORMING PLANTS

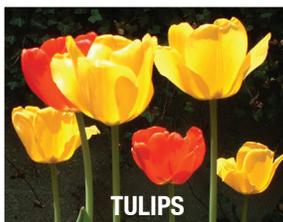
These plants can not only cause gastric upset but also organ damage, specifically kidney damage and heart failure.



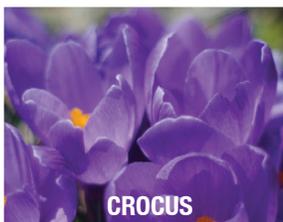
PAPERWHITES



DAFFODILS



TULIPS



CROCUS



SQUILLS

HOW TO KEEP THEM AWAY FROM YOUR CAT

- Don't try to put them in an out-of-the-way or high place in your house! Cats can jump several feet straight up and are agile climbers, especially when they have the incentive of that vase of flowers on top of your entertainment center where they've never gone before. They may injure themselves in the attempt, break a ceramic or glass vase creating a hazard for the whole house, or may actually succeed in getting to the plant and eating it despite your attempts to keep it away from them.
- Look over the bouquet and remove anything that is potentially toxic. Instead of tossing them, take them to the nearest nursing home, personal care home or other public place that might appreciate cut flowers on display—as long as there isn't a kitty there.
- Likewise, take live plants that are toxic to your cats to your nearest care facility, again making certain there isn't a resident kitty.
- If it's warm enough, put cut flowers in a vase on your front porch.
- Plant live plants, such as lilies, tulips and other forced bulbs, hydrangea and azalea, or display them in their pots on your porch or in your yard instead of bringing them indoors. Many plants in pots have spent some time outdoors in a nursery display at a garden center and will adapt just fine, but if your pets go outdoors be sure they can't get to the plants in your yard.

KEEP TOXIC PLANT AND FLOWER INFORMATION HANDY

17 COMMON POISONOUS PLANTS: www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/17-common-poisonous-plants.aspx

ASPCA SEARCHABLE DATABASE OF PLANTS: www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/

PET POISONING EMERGENCIES

Both of the hotlines below are available 24/7/365 providing live consultation for animal poison emergencies, though there is a charge.

ASPCA ANIMAL POISON CONTROL CENTER 888-426-4435, www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/

PET POISON HELPLINE 800-213-6680, www.petpoisonhelpline.com Affiliated with the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center