



## Poisonous for Pets



Lillies

For the first time since the Veterinary Poisons Information Service started monitoring trends lilies have appeared in the toxic top ten!

Having recently purchased a large bunch of lilies myself I was reminded by a recent report of the importance of keeping these beautiful and fragrant flowers well away from cats. Even pollen that drops to the floor is known to be harmful and since 25% of these cases become fatal by causing kidney failure it is worth the extra precaution of disposing of dying flowers with care.

The number one most common toxin from the list - and has been for the last 5 years - is the well used painkiller ibuprofen. There may be a few lying around after the recent football results so be sure to put them away back into a dogproof container.

Second on the list for the last 2 years is chocolate and no doubt sales of this food product will soar as people console themselves after the aforementioned national sporting disappointments.

One group of foodstuffs not as well recognised for its dangers is the ingestion of grapes, raisins or sultanas. Ingestion of large quantities can result in kidney failure by a mechanism which is currently ill-defined. It is my understanding that fermented grapes carry a different kind of health warning for both humans and pets alike!

Over the last 2 weeks, with the summer weather making our feline friends much more active, we have seen 2 cats coated in oil/petroleum distillates - both with good outcomes due to the owner's prompt attention.

One last thought for our budding gardeners is that slugbait (metaldehyde) has killed more pets over the last 13 years than any other household toxin.

Enjoy the forthcoming summer months but be aware of the dangers to your pets that are all too easy to prevent.

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