

Keep Easter lilies from your cats

Dear Drs. Jaffe: I read that Easter Lilies are poisonous to cats. Are any other lilies dangerous?



Ask the Vets
Michael & Tracey Jaffe

Many people do not realize that some lilies, especially Easter lilies, can cause kidney failure if a cat eats any part of the plant. Ingestion of even small amounts of Japanese (sometimes referred to as Asiatic or Asian) rubrum, stargazer, tiger, and even common day lilies may be fatal in cats. A cat may vomit, become lethargic, and lose his appetite within two to six hours after eating part of a lily plant. Acute kidney failure usually occurs within 48 hours of ingestion. Even with early, intensive medical intervention, lily ingestion is often fatal. Lilies do not appear to cause toxicities when eaten by dogs. If you witness your cat eating a lily plant, you should contact a veterinarian immediately. Do not wait! Your veterinarian may instruct you to use hydrogen peroxide to induce your cat to vomit to remove plant material from his stomach. Place 1 teaspoon of 3 percent hydrogen peroxide per 5 pounds of body weight (maximum volume of three tablespoons) in a syringe or medicine dropper. Restrain your cat and slowly place the peroxide into the side or back

of his mouth as he swallows. If you give the peroxide too quickly or forcefully, your cat may inhale it into his lungs. You may need to repeat the process once more if your cat doesn't vomit after five minutes. The next step is to bring your cat to your veterinarian or after hours emergency clinic. Your veterinarian will want to examine your cat and analyze blood and urine samples. In most circumstances, your pet will be hospitalized and given intravenous fluids and other supportive care for the next several days. In many instances, medical treatment is continued for weeks. Treatment is aimed at helping to prevent or treat acute kidney failure. Some cats in kidney failure may be transferred to specialty hospitals to undergo dialysis. If aggressive treatment for poisoning is initiated soon after the lily is consumed, your cat may survive. Even if he lives, he may have some extent of permanent kidney damage.

Other spring flowering bulbs and plants may be harmful to your dog or cat, but fortunately, we don't see many cases of toxicities. We'll briefly mention some additional plants, especially flowering plants, which you should not let your pet ingest. This overview is by no means complete. We've just included some plants which we frequently see in yards around Oakland County and know will be making their appearance in the next few weeks. Lily-of-the-Valley can cause heart irregularities if eaten. Peace lily and philodendron will irritate your pet's mouth, but if a large enough volume is consumed, these plants can cause kidney failure. We see chives growing in many yards. Did you know that dogs or cats that eat plants, such as chives, which are members of the garlic and onion family (Allium spp) may develop hemolytic anemia? Don't let your pet lap up any leftover onion soup! Ingestion of iris, jack-in-the-pulpit, or gladiolus bulbs, rhizomes, or leaves may cause mouth irritation and drooling in addition to gastrointestinal upset. Cyclamen can cause vomiting and diarrhea and possible heart irregularities if eaten. Daffodils, Jonquils, and narcissus can cause contact dermatitis, severe gastrointestinal upset, and even death if the bulbs, or to a lesser extent, the leaves or flowers, are eaten. Tulip, grape hyacinth, snowdrop, or crocus bulbs, leaves, or stems may cause moderately severe stomach and intestinal tract irritation. Eating leaves or flowers of rhododendrons, azaleas, calla lilies or foxgloves is also a no-no. If you suspect your pet has come into contact with a poisonous plant or other toxin, please contact your veterinarian, local veterinary emergency hospital right away. You can also call the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals National Animal Poison Control Center (888-426-4435) for advice. The center provides consultations 24 hours a day. A \$45 fee is charged to your credit card for your consultation. The bottom line is keep your pets away from those beautiful spring and summer flowering plants. If you have cats, please don't bring lilies into your home. Send questions to be addressed in this column by mail in care of Ken Abramczyk, At Home Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham MI 48009. Or e-mail askthrvets@juno.com.

GARDEN CALENDAR

Meadow Brook Hall
Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club will meet 10 a.m. Friday, April 25, in the Coach House at Meadow Brook Hall on the OU campus in Rochester.
Horticulturist Sandra Richards of the Michigan State University Extension, Washtenaw County, will talk on Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring. Non-member donation \$5. Reservations aren't required.
Container gardening
Shelly Buckman will present a free seminar, Container Gardening, 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 26, at garden views, 202 W. Main in Northville. Space is limited. Call (248) 380-8881 to reserve a seat.
Buckman will discuss all aspects of container gardening. Learn about training plants to climb trellises and arbors, and understanding topiary forms.
Trees
The Michigan School of Gardening will present a four-session class, Choosing and Using Trees, beginning Thursday, April 24, at Goldner Walsh Nursery, 559 Orchard Lake Road in Pontiac. Fee is \$152. The class ins and outs of plants, or equivalent experience, is a pre-requisite. For registration and other information, call (248) 4-GARDEN or visit www.michigangardening.com.
Pruning, fertilizing roses
Roger and Nancy Lindley, owners of Great Lakes Roses, are celebrating spring with a series of free public programs Sundays and Mondays at Great Lakes Roses, 49875 Willow Road, between Rawsonville and Sumpter

(Belleville) roads in Sumpter Township. Pruning and Fertilizing of Roses, a hands-on demonstration, will be presented 1 p.m. Sunday, April 27, and 11 a.m. Monday, April 28, in the display garden.
Great Lakes Roses offers more than 500 varieties of roses, and stocks the complete line of Felco pruners, books about roses, fertilizers, soil amendments and pesticides. Visit www.GreatLakesRoses.com or call (734) 461-1230 to request a flyer.
Metropolitan Rose Society
The Metropolitan Rose Society will meet 7:15 p.m. Friday, May 2, at the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center, 3500 Marais, east of Crooks and north of 13 Mile.
Amy Colbran will speak on Making Flower Arrangements Easy. Admission is free. The public may attend. Call (248) 689-9529 for information.
Farmington Garden Club
Beth Poole, a member of the Farmington Garden Club, will use slides and demonstrate the art of container gardening, putting a large pot together in time for spring planting at the next club meeting at noon Monday, May 5, at the Langacre House on the west side of Farmington Road between Ten and Eleven Mile roads.
If you have an item for the garden calendar, please submit at least two weeks in advance of the date it should be published. Send to Ken Abramczyk, At Home editor, Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009 or e-mail kabramczyk@oe.hometeam.com.net

MICHIGAN MODERNISM EXPOSITION

What: 70 merchants will offer pieces by Frank Lloyd Wright, Louis Comfort Tiffany, Herman Miller, Salvador Dali and other designers' works of the Art Deco, Art Nouveau, Prairie, Arts and Crafts, Surrealistic and Neo-Classical schools of design. Additional design categories include industrial design, tramp art, rustic and prominent movements of the 1950s and 1960s.
Where: The Southfield Municipal Complex, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield (from I-696, exit south on Evergreen, to Civic Center Drive (or 10 1/2 Mile)
When: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, April 26, and noon-5 p.m., Sunday, April 27
Admission: \$7 with any ads or listings. \$8 regular admission. One regular paid admission is good for both weekend days of the show. Children 12 or under are free. (April 25, 6-10 p.m. Grand opening party admission, \$35 at the door, featuring the Kathy Kosins Jazz Trio, Fashion Shows by Vintage Chic, hors d'oeuvres by Amalfitis, each bar, early buying opportunity.)

EXPO

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of the dealer. Reputable dealers are happy to talk with you and make you feel comfortable. Ask them how long they have been a dealer, what shows they go to, whether or not they have a shop, where it is located and how long they have been in business.
Think about the four things most experienced collectors do. Impulse buying is fun and appropriate for many.
But if you are limited to a budget and looking for a good investment, consider these four issues: What is the condition of the piece, how rare is it, how desirable is it, and what does it cost?
Weighing these factors will help make the most of your investment dollars and help you enjoy collecting for years to come.



Art Deco, Art Nouveau, Prairie and Arts and Crafts are among the styles of design on display at the expo.

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