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A MESSAGE FROM THE ICU - LILY TOXICITY

April showers bring May flowers... Unfortunately for cats, spring also brings lilies, fragrant flowers popular in gardens and as Easter decorations. Lilies are profoundly toxic to felines - ingestion of a small piece of leaf or flower of the lily will cause severe, acute renal failure. Members of the genus *Lilium*, such as Easter Lily, tiger lily, rubrum lily, Japanese show lily, stargazer lily and Asiatic hybrid lily are toxic, as are members of the genus *Hermerocallis*, common daylily. Peace lilies, not true lilies, are not toxic.



Affected cats will have gastrointestinal signs (vomiting, drooling, nausea) within hours. Acute renal failure develops within 5 days. Urinalysis shows glucose, protein, cylindruria. Renal pathology shows acute renal tubular necrosis.



Initial treatment requires aggressive gastrointestinal decontamination and fluid diuresis. If signs are noticed early and decontamination is achieved within 6 hours of ingestion, most cats will not become ill. Treatment delay of more than 18 hours after ingestion almost always results in acute renal failure, which may require peritoneal or hemodialysis for treatment. Mortality rates range from 50-100% of cats that progress to renal failure.

As Easter approaches, the VEC would like to remind veterinarians to publicize information on Lily toxicosis to their clients. This is a common, little-known, devastating toxin for cats and their owners.

To refer directly to the VEC ICU call (416) 920-2002