Prevention of lily poisoning

- If you have a cat do not grow lilies in your home or garden.
- Remove any lilies from bouquets of flowers and dispose of them safely.
- Do not allow your cat to play with packaging or boxes that have been used to transport bouquets of flowers containing lilies.

What to do if you think your pet has been poisoned

EMERGENCY ADVICE

- **Call Animal PoisonLine on 01202 509000 even if your pet is showing no signs to find out whether a trip to the vet is required.**
- **Remove your pet from the source of poison.**
- **Do not try to make your pet vomit – NEVER give salt water.**
- **Collect the poison and take a sample/ container with you if you are advised to take your pet to the vet practice.**

Animal POISONLine 24hr advice for owners

01202 509000

www.animalpoisonline.co.uk
24 hours a day (charges apply)

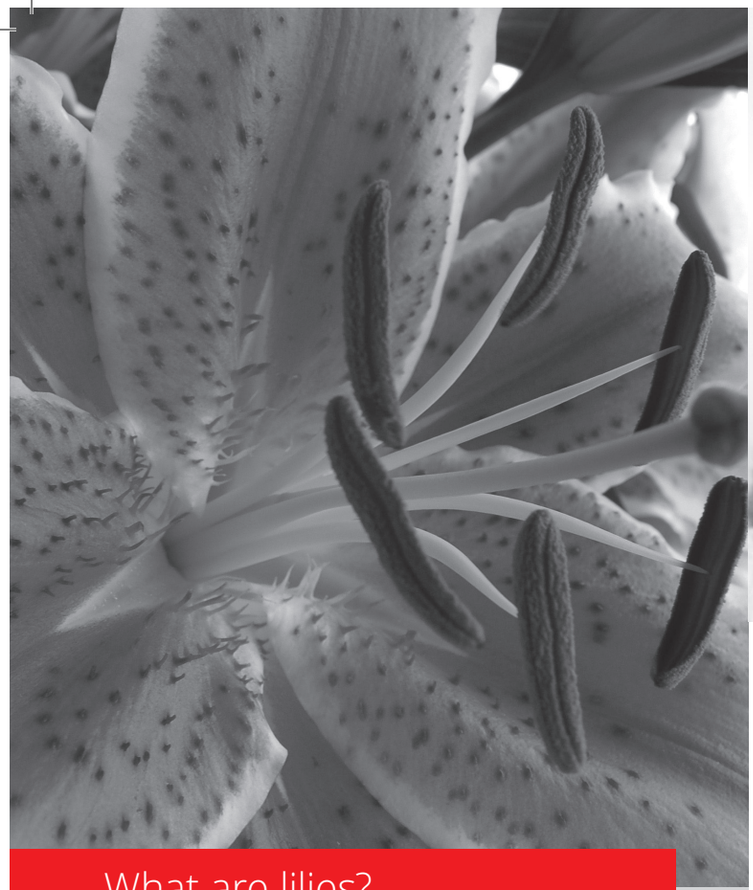
VETERINARY POISONS INFORMATION SERVICE

Animal PoisonLine is run by the VPIS, the UK's only animal poison centre, which has provided advice to vets on the management of poisoning in animals for over 25 years.

Animal POISONLine 24hr advice for owners

01202 509000

LILY POISONING IN CATS



What are lilies?

Lilies, that is, ***Lilium*** (true lily) and ***Hemerocallis*** (day lily) species, are poisonous to cats and cause kidney failure.

Other flowers and plants that are also called 'lilies' (e.g. peace lily) may also be toxic, but are not discussed in this leaflet.

The toxic chemicals and the mechanism of lily poisoning are unknown but all parts of the plant are thought to be toxic including the leaves, flowers and pollen.

Ingestion of even a small quantity (e.g. less than one leaf or part of a flower), as well as grooming pollen from the fur, is enough to potentially cause severe poisoning in a cat.

What are the signs of lily poisoning?

Initial signs of lily poisoning usually start within 1 to 6 hours of ingestion.

Initial signs include:

- Vomiting
- Reduced appetite
- Drooling
- Lethargy
- Weakness

After this kidney failure starts to develop which may cause:

- Increased and then reduced urine output
- More vomiting
- Depression
- Thirst
- Painful kidneys
- Convulsions

What to do if your cat has eaten lilies

- If your cat has eaten any part of a true lily or day lily, even the pollen – contact your vet immediately.
- Your vet may need to call the Veterinary Poisons Information Service for appropriate treatment advice.
- Wash any pollen off the fur and face to prevent further ingestion.
- Call Animal PoisonLine if you want to confirm the lily species your cat has eaten is toxic
- Your vet will take blood and urine samples to check and monitor your cat's kidney function.
- Other treatments may include intravenous fluid therapy for 2 days and monitoring of urine output.

Outcome of lily poisoning

Cats that are treated promptly after lily ingestion (before they develop kidney problems) usually recover fully, but cats that develop kidney failure have a more guarded prognosis.