

FACTSHEET No 9 - THE HIDDEN DANGER OF LILIES.

These flowers are now very popular in floral arrangements but while we may admire their beauty, they are deadly to cats. Cat owners need to be aware that having these flowers in your home can prove fatal. Lily poisoning causes acute kidney failure & if you suspect your cat has eaten any, prompt veterinary attention is of utmost importance. Other pets, such as dogs and rabbits, do not seem to be affected.

Examples of these plants are the Easter Lily, Tiger Lily, Day Lily, Asian lily and Rubrum Lily.



The first signs of lily poisoning occur up to 6 hours after ingestion and include vomiting, loss of appetite and depression. Signs of kidney impairment can occur 24 - 72 hours after ingestion.

Diagnosis of lily poisoning is based on your cat's history. Prompt medical treatment is vital - the sooner your cat is seen by a vet the better.

Treatment includes aggressive intravenous fluid therapy and monitoring of kidney function by taking blood samples. If there is pollen on the skin or fur then your cat will need to be washed thoroughly.



The prognosis for lily poisoning is favourable when treatment is started before the onset of kidney impairment. The prognosis is not so good if signs of kidney impairment are present.

So, if you love to have lilies around the house, remember to keep them away from your cats.