



Spring bulbs

Spring is the time of year a lot of beautiful bulbs and flowers are starting to bloom; however, it is important to be mindful that they can be toxic to our pets. Common spring plants that are toxic to our pets include: Daffodils, Tulips, Bluebells, hyacinths, iris, lilies, alliums, crocuses and more.

- **Symptoms:** Pet owners should be mindful that in a lot of cases the whole plant, including the leaves and petals, can be poisonous, not just the bulb. Depending on the type of plant that has been ingested symptoms may include drooling, irritation to the mouth, vomiting and diarrhoea, nausea, ataxia, tremors, seizures, changes to heart rate and breathing difficulties. Lilies are a particular concern for our cats, all parts of a lily is toxic to cats even the water the lilies are placed in. Ingestion of lilies can rapidly result in acute kidney injury which requires immediate treatment as this can lead to irreversible kidney damage, affected cats can develop seizures, once these symptoms develop the condition is usually fatal.
- **Treatment:** In any case of potential toxin exposure, it is advised to phone your vets as a matter of urgency. It is helpful if you are able to write down the time, the amount, and the type of plant you think your pet has ingested to ensure that this information is readily available when asked, this information can help to determine the most appropriate treatment.
- **Prevention:** Prevention involves ensuring that pets are kept away from poisonous plants where possible, this may be by keeping dogs on the lead, having fenced borders and ensuring that they are supervised in the garden.

Weed Killer

Weed killer can come in a variety of different preparations with different ingredients and concentrations, some of which can be very harmful for our pets, and include ingredients such as paraquat and diquat, amongst others that can also be toxic. Our pets can become exposed to weed killers by coming into contact with herbicide sprays and bottles within the household, spillages outdoors or walking over surfaces that have been treated, resulting on the herbicides being present on their feet and coat where they can then lick the product off and ingest it.

- **Symptoms:** Depending on the product encountered different clinical signs may be present, these may include local irritation of the skin, eyes or mouth. If ingested, gastrointestinal signs may be present, such as inappetence, drooling, vomiting and diarrhoea. Certain types of herbicides can also result in neurological signs (ataxia, depression and seizures). Certain herbicides can also affect the lungs causing difficulty breathing, along with causing damage to the liver and kidneys and may potentially be fatal.
- **Treatment:** If you suspect your pet has been exposed to weed killer or other herbicides phone your vet **immediately**, It is very helpful if the name of the weed killer and the ingredients are given as this can dramatically aid in assessing the severity of the situation and help with deciding the necessary treatment plan. Treatment may include external decontamination (washing the pets coat), induction of emesis to empty the stomach, activated charcoal may be used to help reduce intestinal absorption. Other supportive measures may be indicated, such as antiseizure medication or fluid therapy, depending on the symptoms your pet is displaying.
- **Prevention:** Using pet friendly methods of keeping weeds at bay, such as manually pulling weeds can really help to prevent exposure. Keeping pets away from recently treated areas is essential. Ensuring that herbicide bottles and products are safely stored out of pet reach in closed containers.



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