



Certified by the American Association of Poison Control Centers

# Poison Smarts



## POISON PREVENTION TIPS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Rocky Mountain Poison Center's specially trained nurses, pharmacists, and paraprofessionals are available to answer your questions at any time, every day of the year! Call us at 1-800-222-1222

### Spring has sprung! It's time to get that garden growing!

You can't think of the spring season without flowers. With all the beauty they bring, some common spring and Easter flowers can be hazardous to our pets. *This edition of Poison Smarts focuses on spring toxins and your pet.* If you plant or bring the following blooms into your home, please keep your furry friends away from them:

- **Lilies:** Most lilies are mildly irritating to the gastro-intestinal (GI) tract if eaten. However, *Tiger, Day, Asiatic, Easter* and *Japanese* lilies are highly poisonous to cats. As few as 2 petals can damage the cat's kidneys.
- **Daffodils:** If ingested, daffodil bulbs contain a chemical called Lycorine which causes severe vomiting and diarrhea. In addition, if enough is swallowed, animals can develop seizures and/or a drop in blood pressure.
- **Tulips:** This flower's toxins are more concentrated in the bulb, but the leaves and flowers can still be irritating. Tulips can cause GI upset.
- **Crocus:** The dangers of crocus flowers depends on which type you have. Spring crocus flowers are minimally toxic and can cause minimal GI upset. On the other hand, autumn variety crocus flowers are highly toxic. They can cause GI bleeding, severe vomiting and liver/kidney damage.

### Other common spring-time hazards for pets:



- **Fertilizers:** Most fertilizers are upsetting to the GI tract, but be especially vigilant with blood and bone meal fertilizers around dogs. Since both types of fertilizers are made with animal components, they tend to attract the attention of dogs. Blood meal can cause GI upset. If it's fortified with iron, and can cause iron toxicity if enough is swallowed. Bone meal can also solidify in an animal's stomach and cause an obstruction.
- **Pesticides and herbicides:** Both pesticides and herbicides can cause problems for pets. Cats are especially sensitive to these compounds. Depending on the type used, these can cause anything from mouth irritation to tremors and kidney failure.
- **Easter baskets:** Remember, chocolate and Xylitol (an artificial sweetener) are both toxic to dogs. Keep your Easter baskets (including fake Easter grass) up and out of reach of pets!

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