

MOTHER'S DAY LILY WARNING

Veterinarians at the Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center caution against lilies on Mother's Day for cat owners.

CHICAGO, ILL., May 6, 2014... Veterinarians at the Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center (www.ChicagoPetEmergency.com) urge everyone to "Love Your Mother - Love Her Cat" by avoiding Mother's Day bouquets with lilies. The hospital is sharing a free online infographic to spread awareness of the danger lilies pose to housecats.

Many popular species of lilies used in Mother's Day bouquets are toxic to cats, including the Easter, Tiger, Day, and Asiatic Lily. Any plants from the *Lilium* and *Heimerocallis* (daylily) genera are poisonous, and should never be introduced to a household with cats.

"In the days after Easter, we had several cases of cats being poisoned by lilies," said Dr. Jerry Klein, Supervising Veterinarian. "Fortunately, we were able to save all of them with hospitalization and aggressive treatment, but that's not always the case. I can't stress strongly enough that lilies should never be allowed in a home with cats. They are too poisonous."

All parts of lily plants contain toxins that are harmful to cats, including the petals, leaves, stems, and pollen. Water that lilies have been standing in also absorbs the toxins, and can be deadly when drunk by cats.

Symptoms: The effects of lily poisoning usually appear within 6-12 hours of exposure. Symptoms include vomiting, lethargy, loss of appetite and in severe cases, seizures or muscle tremors. Untreated, lily poisoning can lead to kidney failure and death within days.

Treatment: Immediate treatment (within the first 18 hours after exposure) is critical for cats exposed to lilies or lily-tainted water. Treatment is intensive and usually requires hospitalization. If you believe a cat has been exposed to lilies, contact your veterinarian or an emergency veterinary clinic immediately.

“We strongly encourage anyone who is giving flowers this Mother’s Day to make certain there are no lilies in arrangements being sent to anyone with cats.” said Dr. Klein. “And if you have a cat, please don’t allow lilies into your house. If you receive an arrangement of flowers with lilies, please carefully dispose of the lilies immediately and change the water for the remaining flowers.”

Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center is distributing the attached infographic to remind everyone about the dangers of lilies to cats. It is also available on their website: www.ChicagoPetEmergency.com.

About Chicago Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center
(www.ChicagoPetEmergency.com)

Chicago’s oldest and largest pet emergency facility, the Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center provides advanced emergency, critical and specialty care for cats and dogs. Each year, the center treats more than 11,000 cats and dogs in its emergency room and thousands more are cared for by veterinary specialists.

Staffed by highly-trained specialists and equipped with the latest technology, Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center is always open – 24-hours, every day of the year. In addition to emergency veterinarians and staff, the facility offers board-certified veterinarians who specialize in cardiology, dentistry, dermatology, diagnostic imaging, internal medicine, neurology, oncology, ophthalmology and surgery. This state-of-the-art facility includes ultrasound and MRI equipment, specialized surgical suites, a blood bank, specialized oxygen cages, heart monitors and more. A cancer and rehabilitation center is located

across the street. Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center has been providing emergency care for cats and dogs since 1978.

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