



The popular floral toxin that can be harmful to cats

The lily is a common gift choice when it comes to flowers, but what many don't know is that it is particularly toxic to pets, especially cats.

The Cat Protection Society of Victoria (CPSV) Head Vet Dr Petra Keown is concerned about the number of cats that present in her clinic because they have ingested the flower.

"Cats only need to ingest the pollen of a lily and without treatment it can lead to kidney failure," she said.

"There are plenty of plants that fall within the lily family, but it is often ornamental lilies that are given as gifts or purchased for display in the home that cause the problems," Dr Keown said.

"It is especially risky for indoor cats who are curious and interested in new things as they are fascinated by the novelty of the new flowers in the home," she said.

As kittens are usually curious and adventurous they can be more susceptible to ingesting the toxic flower, but owners of older cats should be vigilant too.

"It is important that you know your cat and their common behaviour well. I advise not to leave curious cats or kittens unsupervised with these plants. I personally know my own cats wouldn't be interested but some are obsessed with new things. I would still be watchful if there was a lily in my house," Dr Keown said.

"Another concern is that cats can rub the pollen on their body then lick it off. That can be toxic too," she said.

There are certain signs your cat will display if they have ingested a lily but it is unlikely these will be exhibited straight away so if you suspect your cat has ingested the plant you are best to visit the vet immediately.

"It is likely that there wouldn't be many signs initially but left untreated the cat would soon develop nausea. They would go off their food and there would be changes in their urinary patterns. If you have an inkling that something isn't quite right you should visit the vet that day," Dr Keown said.

"Once at the clinic your cat would be given fluids through an IV drip to flush out the toxins," she said.

It is not just lilies that can be harmful to your cats, you can find a more extensive list of all toxic flowers and plants [here](#).

"When it comes to your cat and toxic plants you need to try and keep them apart. Be vigilant, know your cat and its behaviours well and always act on anything that doesn't seem quite right," Dr Keown said.

The Cat Protection Society of Victoria
200 Elder Street, Greensborough 3088
P 03 8457 6500
F /catprotection I @catprotection
WWW.CATPROTECTION.COM.AU

