



## 8. RODENTICIDES

 **Poison:** Varies between rodenticides; the most toxic are anticoagulants, cholecalciferol, bromethalin, and phosphide

 **Pet:** Dogs and cats

 **Problems:**

- **Anticoagulants:** Lethargy, exercise intolerance, coughing, difficulty breathing, pale gums, vomiting, diarrhea, weakness, collapse, nosebleeds, bruising, bloody urine, bleeding from gums, swollen joints

- **Bromethalin:** Lethargy, “drunk walking,” abnormal pupil size, decreased consciousness, tremors, seizures, death

 **Plan:** Keep pets away from rodenticides. Store out of reach of pets. Contact a veterinarian immediately if ingestion occurs, and bring the product label with you to the veterinarian.

## 9. ANTIFREEZE

 **Poison:** Ethylene glycol

 **Pet:** Dogs and cats

- As little as **1 tablespoon** for dogs and **1 teaspoon** for cats can result in acute kidney failure and death

 **Problems:** Drunkenness, excessive thirst or urination, panting, lethargy, vomiting, seizures, coma, death

 **Plan:** Keep pets away from products containing antifreeze (radiator coolant, windshield de-icing agents, motor oils, hydraulic brake fluid, paints, solvents, etc). Store out of reach of pets. Contact a veterinarian immediately if ingestion occurs.



## 10. FIREWORKS

 **Poison:** various hazardous chemicals and heavy metals; noise can cause stress

 **Pet:** Dogs and cats

 **Problems:**

- Ingestion: vomiting, bloody diarrhea, tremors and seizures, shallow breathing, intestinal obstruction that may require surgery

- Contact: severe face, mouth, and intestinal tract burns when ignited

 **Plan:** Keep pets away from fireworks.

Contact a veterinarian if exposure occurs.

## RESOURCES and CONSULTATION

 University of Missouri Veterinary Health Center

For suspected intoxications:

- Small Animal Hospital: 573-882-7821

- 24/7 Emergency: 573-882-4589

For pet poison information:

- Tim Evans, DVM, MS: 573-884-9270

 [www.petpoisonhelpline.com](http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com)

- 24/7 Pet Poison Helpline: 855-764-7661 (fee may apply)

 [www.aspca.org](http://www.aspca.org)

- 24/7 ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: 888-426-4435 (fee may apply)

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# TOP 10 SPRING AND SUMMER PET HAZARDS

## THE 4 P'S:

 Poison

 Pet

 Problems

 Plan

**T**he weather is getting warmer! It's time to start your garden, grill out, and go swimming with your dog in the lake. But what plants are toxic to your pet? Are onions and garlic really that harmful? Are there toxins in ponds and lakes? This brochure is to inform you about top spring and summer pet hazards. We want to help keep your pet safe and healthy!



**Veterinary Health Center**  
University of Missouri

**NOTE:** Problems are listed in order of severity, with the least serious problems (drooling, GI upset) generally being the first and, perhaps, the only symptoms observed if only a small amount of poison is eaten by your pet. The likelihood of more serious symptoms (seizures, death) is increased when larger amounts of these poisons are consumed. It's always best to contact your veterinarian when you see initial problems of a known or suspected poison ingestion, before more serious symptoms occur.

## Toxic Plants

### 1. TRUE LILIES

- ☹️ **Poison:** Unknown toxin in *Lilium* or *Henecallis* species (Easter lily, tiger lily, daylily, etc.)
- ☹️ **Pet:** Cats – highly toxic, an emergency!
- **As little as one bite** can cause symptoms (even water from the vase)
- ☹️ **Problems:** Drooling, pawing at the mouth, foaming, vomiting or diarrhea, seizures, death
- ☹️ **Plan:** Keep out of reach of pets. Contact a veterinarian immediately if ingestion occurs, as even a small ingestion can lead to severe, acute kidney failure! **Note:** Differentiate true lilies (severe toxicity) from false lilies like peace lily (mild to moderate toxicity).

### 2. TULIPS, HYACINTH, and DAFFODILS

- ☹️ **Poison:** Allergenic lactones or similar alkaloids – highly concentrated in the bulbs
- ☹️ **Pet:** Dogs and cats
- ☹️ **Problems:** Drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, difficulty breathing, heart problems
- ☹️ **Plan:** Keep out of reach of pets. Contact a veterinarian immediately if ingestion occurs.



### 3. BLUE GREEN ALGAE

- ☹️ **Poison:** Cyanobacteria-produced microcystins and anatoxins
- Affects pets **AND PEOPLE** that swim in and drink from the algae-contaminated water; treat all algae as potentially toxic!
- ☹️ **Pet:** Dogs and cats (also birds, horses, and cows)
- ☹️ **Problems:** Salivation, vomiting, diarrhea, bloody stool, seizures, disorientation, pale/yellow/blue mucous membranes, muscle tremors, difficulty breathing, death
- **Microcystin toxin: Death within days** due to liver failure
- **Anatoxin: Death within minutes to hours** due to respiratory paralysis
- ☹️ **Plan:** Keep pets from drinking or swimming in water with algae. Contact a veterinarian immediately as death can occur quickly.

## Toxic Food

### 4. ONIONS and GARLIC

- ☹️ **Poison:** Unknown toxin that causes oxidative damage to red blood cells resulting in anemia
- Garlic and dehydrated onion are more potent than raw onions!
- **CHIVES** and **LEEKs** contain similar toxins
- ☹️ **Pet:** Dogs and cats
- ☹️ **Problems:** Drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, pale gums, increased heart rate and respiratory rate, collapse and weakness
- ☹️ **Plan:** Always consider the ingredients before giving your pet any table scraps. If your pet ingests anything containing garlic or onions, contact a veterinarian. Eating a relatively small amount (especially daily) can lead to chronic anemia and kidney failure.

## Other Hazards

### 5. FERTILIZERS

- ☹️ **Poison:** Potash, iron, nitrogen, other chemicals, and meal-based
- ☹️ **Pet:** Dogs and cats
- ☹️ **Problems:** Vomiting, diarrhea, difficulty breathing, can pancreatitis, intestinal obstruction that may require surgery
- ☹️ **Plan:** Keep pets away from fertilizers. Contact a veterinarian if ingestion occurs.

### 6. MULCH and COMPOST

- ☹️ **Poison:** Varies with type of mulch; compost can contain tremogenic mycotoxins
- Some mulch contains cocoa bean hulls! This may cause chocolate toxicity (hyperactivity, seizures)
- ☹️ **Pet:** Dogs and cats (even wildlife)
- ☹️ **Problems:** Drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, seizures, intestinal obstruction, death
- ☹️ **Plan:** Keep pets away from mulch and compost. Contact a veterinarian if ingestion occurs.



### 7. INSECTICIDES

- ☹️ **Poison:** Varies between insecticides; the most toxic are organophosphates, carbamate, and pyrethroid associated insecticides
- ☹️ **Pet:** Dogs and cats
- ☹️ **Problems:** Drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, “drunk walking,” seizures
- ☹️ **Plan:** Keep pets away from insecticides. Store out of reach of pets. Contact a veterinarian if ingestion occurs.

