

# SPRING AWARENESS

As spring is fast approaching, we begin to look forward to the longer days, warmer weather and blooming flowers. However it is important to be aware of the hidden dangers that spring will bring for our beloved pets.

## **Toxic Spring Plants**

With the warmer weather, we will begin to notice the spring bulbs starting to bloom. Many common spring plants such as Daffodils, Iris, Tulips and Hyacinth are toxic to our pets. When gardening, keep pets away from any bulbs or flowers and call your veterinary practice straight away if you think your pet may have ingested any part of a toxic plant.

The PDSA have more information regarding toxic plants on their website:

<https://www.pdsa.org.uk/pet-help-and-advice/looking-after-your-pet/all-pets/poisonous-plants>



## **Flystrike**

Both indoor and outdoor rabbits can be at risk of fly strike as spring insects start to appear. The bottle fly is a common risk for rabbits, these insects will often lay their eggs inside the rabbit's fur. The eggs will then hatch into

maggots, which can burrow into the skin causing shock and often leads to fatality within 24 hours if not treated.

Prevention is essential to keep your rabbits safe from flystrike. Keep their environment clean with fresh bedding and litter daily. Make sure your rabbit's diet is primarily hay-based, with only a small amount of fresh vegetables. Check your rabbit at least twice daily, with special attention around the bottom and tail area to ensure it is kept clean and there is no evidence of fly eggs or maggots. If you notice any cause of concern contact your veterinary surgeon straight away.

For more useful hints and tips regarding flystrike please visit bluecross:

<https://www.bluecross.org.uk/advice/rabbit/health-and-injuries/fly-strike-in-rabbits>



### **Easter foods**

Many of us will enjoy indulging in delicious treats over easter such as easter eggs and hot cross buns. However these treats pose risks to our pets as they contain toxic ingredients.

Grapes and their dried fruits such as raisins and currants are toxic to pets and can cause gastrointestinal upset and kidney damage.

Symptoms can include:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Painful abdomen
- Reduced appetite
- Lethargy

Chocolate contains a chemical called theobromine, which is poisonous to dogs, as well as most other animals. Dark chocolate contains higher levels of theobromine so poses a higher risk.

Symptoms include:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Panting
- Restlessness
- Increased heart rate
- Muscle tremors
- Seizures

Treatment depends on the volume of toxicity ingested, but often recommendations are induced vomiting, gastrointestinal support, fluid therapy and clinical monitoring.

If you suspect your pet has ingested a toxic food, please contact the surgery as soon as possible.

For more information on easter dangers for our pets, please visit the kennel club website:

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/health-and-dog-care/health/health-and-care/a-z-of-health-and-care-issues/easter-dangers/>

