



# The Time is Meow

## Lilies and cut flowers that are toxic to cats

### Why it matters

Cut flowers including lilies and daffodils can be deadly if nibbled by a curious cat, yet many owners are unaware of the risk until it's too late. Despite some flowers being highly toxic to cats, supermarket, shop-bought and online bouquets are generally sold without any warning to alert consumers of the dangers of certain flowers.

This lack of clear labelling means many owners are unwittingly exposing their beloved cat to a potentially fatal reaction simply by purchasing a bunch of flowers.

While some retailers may display a warning on bouquets, this is often in small print, hard to spot or included on a peel-off price sticker which is normally removed before flowers are gifted.

### What the government can do

Introduce a mandatory 'pet safe' sticker scheme for all retailers to use on bunches of cut flowers sold in stores and online which are safe for pets. Stickers should be clearly displayed on bouquet packaging, with a universal logo that consumers can easily recognise and trust.



Lilies are particularly dangerous for cats, with all parts of the plant containing a toxin which can lead to rapid and severe kidney failure. Simply licking pollen off their fur or drinking water from a vase containing lilies is enough for a cat to suffer a potentially fatal reaction.



Turn over to read Luna's story



## The benefits

1. Reduce the number of cats that die or suffer severe reactions from toxins in cut flowers.
2. Increase consumer awareness of the risks posed by certain flowers.
3. Help consumers easily identify cut flowers that are safe to have in their house or give to cat-owning family or friends.

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**Luna was lucky to survive after she ingested lily pollen from a birthday bouquet which had been given to her owner. Having put the flowers on a table, Luna's owner thought they would be out of harm's way, but returned home to find pollen around the four-month-old kitten's mouth. Aware of the dangers of lilies, Luna's owner rushed her to a PDSA Pet Hospital where she needed intensive treatment to help remove toxins from her body. Thanks to her owner's quick-thinking actions and the skill of vets, Luna was able to return home after two nights and made a full recovery.**



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