

## Garden Dangers! - POISONS IN THE GARDEN

Summer is here at last and we all want to get out in the garden to enjoy some sunshine.

Owners need to bear in mind that there are some dangers lurking in the leaves and flowers in their garden.

As well as the obvious slug pellets, rat poisons and weedkillers that are all harmful to our pets there are some common garden plants that are equally as toxic if enough is eaten.

Different parts of the plant may be dangerous depending on the variety.

Eg bulbs, leaves, berries or pollen.

Dangerous plants include:

- Daffodils (especially the bulbs)

- Castor oil bush (dogs love the seeds)
- Cherry laurel (common hedging plant)
- Laburnum (and related species)
- Lilies / Lily of the Valley (especially toxic to cats)
- Foxgloves
- Ivy
- Rhubarb



- Holly
- Iris
- Yew

This list is by no means exhaustive, therefore

if you are in any doubt as to whether your pet has eaten a poisonous plant please call us at the surgery as soon as possible.

Early symptoms may include vomiting, excess salivation, wobbliness or collapse. However due to the nature of some toxins by the time you pet starts showing signs it may be too late and early treatment is essential to prevent permanent damage or even death.

Whilst we do not suggest that you must concrete over your garden we do ask you are aware of what plants you already have that your pets may come into contact with..

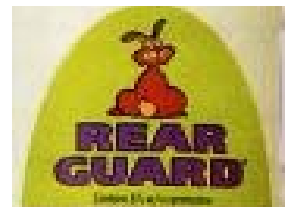
## Flystrike

### What is Flystrike?

- Flystrike is the infestation of an animal with maggots. Rabbits are especially vulnerable.
- Flies lay their eggs in the damp or dirty wet folds of skin around the rabbits bottom, where they hatch out into maggots.
- These maggots then burrow into your rabbits skin and if left untreated, this is quite often FATAL.

### What can you do?

- Don't over feed your rabbit and ensure that they get plenty of exercise. When a rabbit is overweight it cannot keep itself clean.
- Check your rabbit twice daily to ensure he is clean and dry. You will need to pick them up to have a proper look underneath.
- Remove all soiled bedding daily and disinfect the hutch weekly.
- Applying 'Rearguard' to your rabbit will protect them from flystrike for up to 10 weeks.



## Lucky Puppy - Lewis' Story



Lewis the Wheaten Terrier was just 12 weeks old when he came to see vet Roz Taylor with symptoms of gagging and vomiting. His owners thought he may have eaten a piece of a wooden knitting needle after they found some pieces of it at home. Nothing could be seen in his throat on initial examination so Lewis was admitted as an emergency for further investigation.

After just a few minutes, Allison, our new nurse who was monitoring Lewis, realised he had started to vomit the needle back up. Roz then very gently removed it by traction. Amazingly, it was 9 inches long! Lewis was very lucky that it caused no internal damage and just proves that you need eyes in the back of your head when you take on a puppy!