



## THE DEADLY LILY

by Laura Bartlett

Beautiful and fragrant as many varieties of lily are, they pose an extreme danger to the cats. Any part of the lily, even the pollen, is toxic to cats if ingested, and even a small amount is deadly. Unfortunately they often come into homes as part of a bouquet or as a potted plant and curious cats will nibble on the leaves or brush near the flower and get pollen on their coat. They may also eat a leaf or flower in the garden and in either case they will become extremely ill and often die.

Some examples of day lilies that are nephrotoxic to cats are: Day Lily (*hemerocalis*), Asiatic Lily (*Lilium asiatica*), Tiger Lily (*Lilium Tigrinum*), Easter Lily/ Longiflorum Lily (*Lilium loniflorum*), Stargazer Lily (*Lilium orientalis*), Japanese showy lily (*Lilium hybridum*) and Western or Wood Lily (*Lilium umbellatum*). This is not a complete list as there are many varieties of lily.

All this comes from personal experience. My 1 year-old cat, even though I had her on a leash, managed to mistake a daylily leaf for a blade of grass (very similar) and ate a 4 inch piece while I had my back turned. I noticed the fresh bite on the leaf and phoned the ASPCA poison control line to see if daylilies were as dangerous as the Asiatic lily that often comes in bouquets. They told me to get her to the vet as soon as possible as it is the same class of plant. The vet gave Zena hydrogen peroxide, a treatment to make her throw up. Luckily it worked and we identified a 4 inch piece of day lily leaf. Even though we removed the poisonous item they told me that even a trace of this poison left in her stomach could destroy her kidneys, so she would have to spend at least 48 hours at the

emergency clinic being constantly monitored by a vet and technician. They kept her on a constant IV drip to help flush out the poison and hopefully stop it from destroying her kidneys. She seems to have recovered without any ill effects but the vet cautioned that there are no tests that show kidney damage until there is only 25% of the kidney functioning so she still could have damage that will compromise her kidneys later in life. He said we were very lucky as usually they don't see the cats that have ingested the plant until they start showing symptoms and often there is no help for them. If the kidneys completely shut down dialysis may be the only option for treatment but the prognosis is still very poor.

The most common symptoms are vomiting, anorexia and depression or lethargy. Less often hypersalivation and twitching are seen. Signs of renal failure are usually seen within 12-24 hours.

As little as one leaf can cause a fatality. Using Diuresis (increasing urine production with fluid therapy) helps to eliminate what is left in the system and limit damage to the kidneys. If the treatment is not started within 18 hours the prognosis is very poor. Unfortunately they may not arrive at the

vet's office within this time frame and it will be probably too late for effective treatment.

Indoor cats may be at greater risk as they may not have access to greens indoors and will be interested in any plant material, though they do prefer grass.

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center's phone number, at this time, is: 1 888 426-4435. Their poison hotline

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# JERRY COMES HOME

by Jennifer North



*Jerry was a little kitten who had been born into the wild when she first came to the Royal City Humane Society in October of 2006. This very scared little ball of fur had to learn to become used to humans. This courageous girl stayed with us for six years and grew into a lovely, sweet but shy cat and became the wonderful little cat we all knew she was.*

I have been a Saturday volunteer at RCHS since September 2005.

I can't remember exactly when I first met Jerry, but I have known this sweet cat for a few years. In fact when I look at the shelter cat photos on my phone from a few years ago, the one cat that shows up consistently is Jerry. It is true that I have had a soft spot in my heart for her for sometime.

We have always had two cats in our lives at any given time, not because two cats is all we wanted, but because two cats is what is allowed by our strata. I have often said to my husband, "I wish we owned a house instead of a condo, because if we did, I would bring home more than a few of the shelter cats."

This past February, our eldest cat Stella had a stroke while we were at work and subsequently became paralyzed. Our dear, sweet, beautiful Stella had to be euthanized. It was a very sad day for Jeff and myself.

What we started to realize very soon after was how sad our other cat Oscar was. He was meowing and calling for Stella and he searched for her in all of the rooms. Oscar became very needy and was clearly as sad as we were at losing Stella.

I started thinking about Jerry from the shelter and wondered if she would be a good fit, and would she and Oscar get along?

I spoke to Doreen and we decided to give it a try. We would foster Jerry and see how Oscar would handle a new sister so soon after losing his sweet sister Stella.

In record time... I believe a day and a half, Jerry had come into our home and lives and everyone, including Oscar, fell in love with her. Our foster turned into an official adoption in under two weeks.

As I write this, I am in bed, with Oscar on my left foot and Jerry on my right foot. The two cats are at perfect ease with one another, as though they had been living together forever. Jerry has adapted well, she is mesmerized

by our gas fireplace and the TV, two things she hadn't really experienced before.

Jeff, Oscar and I are all in love with Jerry and we know she will remain with us in our small family for her forever life and I think that she loves the three of us in return, as evidenced by her purring and wanting to be with us, wherever we are in our home.



## THE DEADLY LILY....continued

is staffed by veterinarians and operates 24 hours, 7 days a week for information and instructions on what to do if your pet has ingested plants or substances that you suspect may be poisonous. At the present time there is a charge of \$69 USD dollars for a veterinarian's advice. Their website - [www.aspc.org](http://www.aspc.org) - has a link for their poison control center, a list of toxic plants, a list of toxic human medications and is also a good resource for lists of recalled pet foods.

### References:

Thank you to the Langley Emergency Veterinary Clinic, who checked the article for accuracy.

Emergency Veterinary Clinic 306- 60325 204TH St ,  
Langley , B.C. V2Y 3B3 ph 604 514-1711

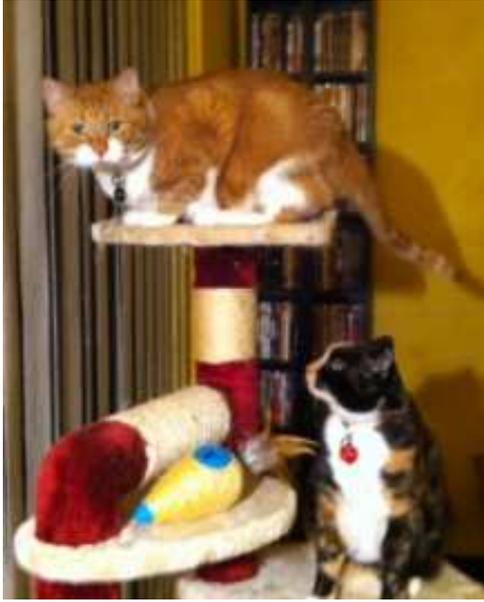
## DO YOUR PART TO HELP CONTROL THE PET POPULATION

One of the most serious problems impacting animals is overpopulation. There are so many animals being born every day that there are just not enough homes for all of them, resulting in thousands of unwanted animals. Pets that are spayed or neutered typically live much longer, healthier and happier lives. The most important thing to know about spaying and neutering is that it saves lives. For these reasons, and many more, all animals adopted from RCHS have already been spayed or neutered. In every community, there are animals sitting in shelters waiting for homes.

**HAVE YOUR PETS SPAYED OR NEUTERED**

# JASPER

by Cathy & Shane Conley & Andie



Jasper, aka Garfield pictured here on top of post, and his friend Andie

I can hardly believe that it's been two years since I adopted "Garfield" (now Jasper) from the RCHS. I had wanted a companion cat for my resident princess, Andie, for some time and had looked through every cattery in the Lower Mainland but hadn't found anyone who appeared to be a good fit. And then I happened on RCHS. What an introduction I had to this mass of cats! Every shape, size, colour, background....I knew if I couldn't find one here there was something wrong with ME;-)

After two lengthy visits I still hadn't made a match. I was really beginning to give up when Doreen made a suggestion. There was a very timid boy who lived under the couch and was exactly the colouring I had hoped for. But, he wanted nothing to do with ANYONE! The first time I saw him was when some volunteers lifted the couch and he came slinking out. Very skinny (as he probably wasn't coming out to compete for food) he still was absolutely gorgeous but I knew a 'fraidy cat would not fit well in our household and had dismissed the idea.

On this, my second visit, Doreen made an impassioned plea for him and again dragged him out from under the couch for me to hold. He wasn't the least bit aggressive, he just wasn't interested in people and was obviously freaked out

by the big population at the shelter. He certainly wasn't a "Garfield"...lol. BUT....I was able to get him to daintily take some treats from my hand! I figured that any cat that could be fed by hand when they were that stressed had possibilities. Doreen made an adoption plan for us that included a one month trial to see if he could survive with our cat.

We took him home and followed all the great advice that RCHS has on their website regarding introducing a new cat to a resident cat but after two weeks he still wouldn't come out from under the couch in our spare room unless dragged or coaxed with treats. Hmmmm. It wasn't looking good but I had fallen under his spell and couldn't imagine taking him back. By the third week my husband and I were running out of ideas. Jasper still wouldn't venture downstairs and the many attempts we had made of introducing the two cats were disasters. Finally, my brother came up with the solution. We had been going about it backwards! We had been sheltering Jasper in the spare room and allowing Andie the run of the house. We switched them around! Andie was kept in the room for the fourth week and Jasper had the run of the house. Success!!! He had just wanted to be able to look around the whole place without another cat bullying him. (Not that Andie is a bully....she just wasn't sure she liked the idea of an interloper). And, it gave Andie a chance to realize that she had better learn to put up with "the new guy".

Now, after two years...while they aren't exactly bosom buddies, they do tolerate each other and even when they fight and tumble each other down the stairs we figure they are just getting good exercise. Jasper has blossomed into a handsome, healthy boy and has the most loving personality. He's my pal and my shadow, following me from room to room. He even comes when called and loves to be challenged with learning enrichment puzzles. (I put treats into different containers and he has to figure out how to get them out.)

And, to think I may have missed out on this wonderful boy had it not been for Doreen's caring to find the best for him (and us). Thank you so much and keep up the good work!

## KITTY PROFILE CHESTER

by Leslie Rodgers

Tawny, long-haired Chester is an especially handsome young cat with an air of confidence that makes him stand out in a crowd. He sets some (but not all) of the rules at the shelter - he's a natural-born ruler! But despite his regal carriage, Chester's little pink nose gives him away - at heart he is really is a playful pussycat with an endless supply of love to pour out to his adoptive family. He would really suit someone who likes a confident, outgoing and playful personality with just the right amount of "I need you."



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 (a cat adopted from rchs Oct. 1999-  
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## KITTIA



Hi All

Just wanted to update you on how Miss Kittia is settling in. It's been almost three months since I added Miss Kittia to my family.

She is just a joy and such a personality. I don't know how I got along without her. She's very funny - she will sit and watch thunder and lightening but when my neighbour puts their key in the lock she runs to her safe place.

I just love her to bits and I think she is OK with me. Thanks again for bringing joy into my life.

Regards Joyce Johnston.

## SKETCHY

Do you remember the ever-elusive tortie, Sketchy? My family and I adopted her a little over a year ago and she is doing wonderfully. She's my best friend, I wake up with her by my side every morning!

Thank you for allowing me the chance to give such a wonderful kitty a home :)

We, the animals who have been rescued from the streets, now and in the past, would like to thank all of the wonderful donors who so generously give us money, food and supplies throughout the year. Some of us have found new and loving homes. As for the rest of us we now have full bellies, warm dry beds, safety and love. Thank you, you have helped to make a world of difference in our lives.

Purrs From The RCHS Cats

## Royal City Humane Society

Mailing Address: Box 0102, 667 Columbia Street, New Westminster B.C. V3M 1A8

604 524-6447

www.rchs.bc.ca

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The Royal City Humane Society is a registered, no kill animal charity based in New Westminster, BC. As the only charity animal shelter in New Westminster, RCHS campaigns against pet overpopulation and cares for stray, injured and abandoned animals by testing them for disease, sterilizing and tattooing and finding them new homes. RCHS is 100% volunteer run. Funding is obtained through various fund raising activities, memberships and donations, and all funds are spent on the welfare of the animals.

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