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Outdoor Toxins

Spring is in the air...

As the warm weather encourages us and our pets to go outside, it is good to be aware of potential outdoor toxins.

In Las Vegas the two most common outdoor plants that cause toxicity in dogs are the sago palm and oleander. All parts of the sago palm are toxic, especially the bulb or fruit. Dogs who consume sago palms experience severe liver failure that is often fatal. Oleander is another plant that is commonly used in landscaping in Las Vegas. Consuming the leaves of this plant causes problems with the heart that can be fatal. Pets should be kept away from these plants and they should never be planted in a yard where pets frequent. Some examples of what these plants may look like:

Sago Palm



Oleander



Oleander



Many products used outdoors or in the garage are toxic to pets, including insecticides, herbicides and rodenticides. Insecticides were the subject of 11% of the calls to the ASPCA Poison Control Hotline in 2011. Depending on the type of rodenticide, accidental ingestion can cause internal bleeding, kidney failure and seizures. Always thoroughly read the label before using any product in an area where your pet may roam.

Other hazards you and your pet might encounter (especially if your dog is a "scavenger") include animal feces, bird droppings and dead animals. These have the potential for causing gastric upset, bacterial infection, transmission of internal parasites, and possible gastro-intestinal blockage.



Always monitor your pet closely while outside, and make sure your yard is free of potential hazards. If you suspect your pet has ingested a potential toxin, contact Animal Poison Control at (888)426-4435. And as always, VE+CC is here for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

