

Calling all cat owners

If you'd rather avoid a trip to one of our out-of-hours pet emergency clinics or 24/7 hospitals this summer then beware of these:

13 summer dangers that could make your cat ill

OUT AND ABOUT

1.

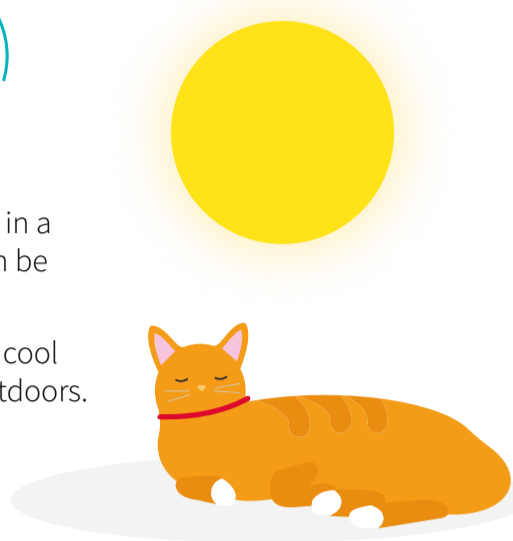
Hot Weather

Danger: Cats love sunbathing but be careful they don't over exert themselves in the middle of the day or lock themselves in a greenhouse, conservatory or car by accident. Heat stroke can be fatal and sunburn is also a risk.

How to avoid: Keep cats cool by turning on a fan, providing cool drinking water and creating a shaded retreat indoors and outdoors.

4/5
Risk rating

2/5
Likelihood rating



2.

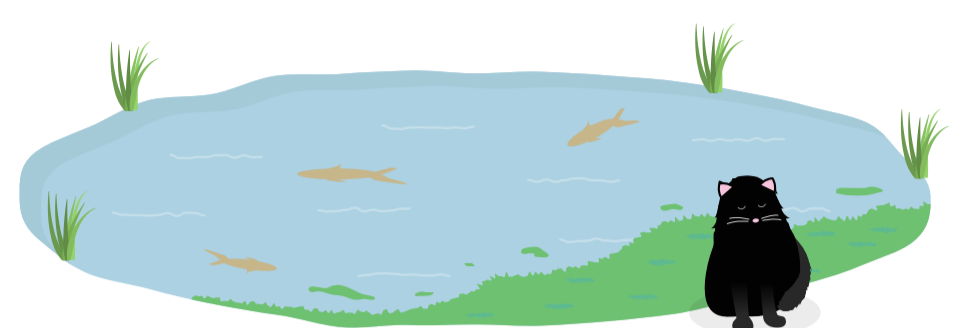
Blue-Green Algae

Danger: This bacteria forms on top of lakes and ponds but often can't be seen with the naked eye. It's most common during warm, dry spells. Even swallowing a few mouthfuls can be fatal.

How to avoid: Try to keep your cat away from water that may contain blue-green algae as the wind often blows poisonous blooms to the edges.

5/5
Risk rating

2/5
Likelihood rating



3.

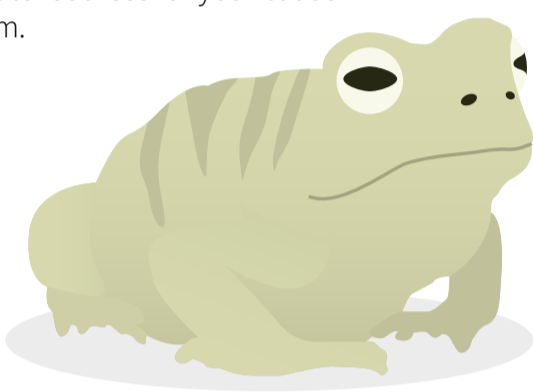
Toads

Danger: Cats who come across toads may try to lick them. Toads respond by releasing poisonous venom from glands on their skin. This can be lethal if not treated immediately.

How to avoid: If you live in area where toads are common keep a close eye on potential water sources for your cat as there may be toads living in them.

4/5
Risk rating

1/5
Likelihood rating



4.

Fish Hooks

Danger: Cats are often tempted to swallow any tasty bait that's attached to fish hooks. But these can cause nasty injuries if embedded in the mouth, stomach or paws.

How to avoid: Fish hooks are often discarded by inconsiderate fishermen so be on your guard if you live in an area where fishing is popular.

3/5
Risk rating

3/5
Likelihood rating



IN THE HOME

5.

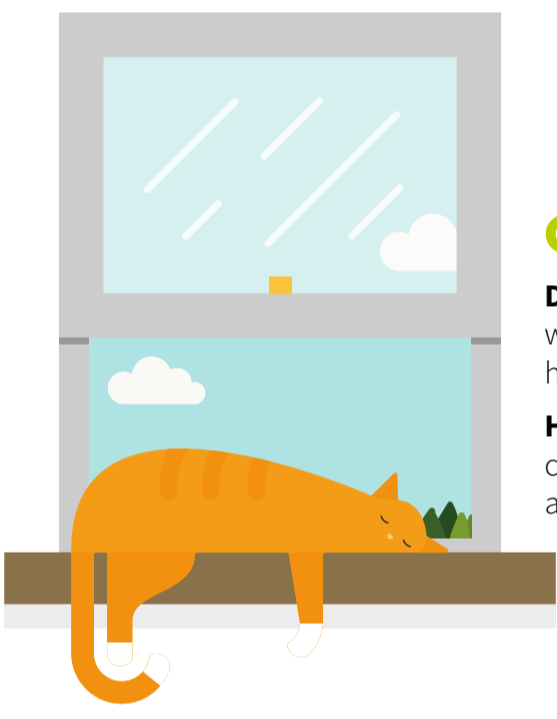
Open Windows

Danger: Cats are curious animals and may find an open window too tempting to ignore. Be careful if you live in a high-rise flat or even a two-storey house.

How to avoid: Aside from keeping upstairs windows closed, you could try using netting or a screen or installing a child safety device that limits how far they can open.

4/5
Risk rating

2/5
Likelihood rating



6.

Antihistamines

Danger: If your cat swallows a large number of antihistamines it's likely to lead to vomiting, lethargy, incoordination, wobbliness and tremors.

How to avoid: Always keep drugs and medicines well out of reach.

3/5
Risk rating

1/5
Likelihood rating



7.

Luminous Necklaces

Danger: Popular during music festival season, these contain luminescent chemicals which are attractive to cats. If swallowed, the liquid inside can cause drooling, vomiting and stomach pain.

How to avoid: Keep well out of reach and carefully dispose of any you've used.

2/5
Risk rating

1/5
Likelihood rating



IN THE GARDEN

8.

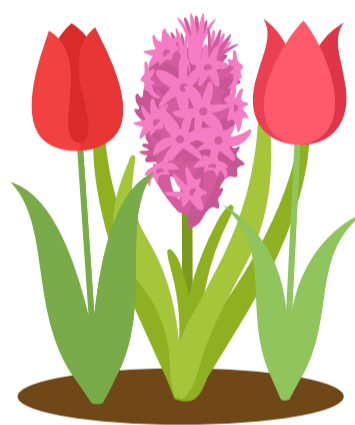
Flowers and Plants

Danger: Several flowers and plants that are popular in the summer are potentially toxic to cats, including lilies, poppies, clematis, peony, foxglove, geranium, chrysanthemum, oleander and yew.

How to avoid: Read up on which plants are toxic and avoid buying those listed as dangerous.

5/5
Risk rating

3/5
Likelihood rating



9.

Slug and Snail Pellets

Danger: Tiny pellets used to control slugs and snails can cause severe poisoning in cats within an hour of being swallowed.

How to avoid: Avoid any products containing a substance called metaldehyde and scatter any pellets you do use sporadically.

5/5
Risk rating

2/5
Likelihood rating



10.

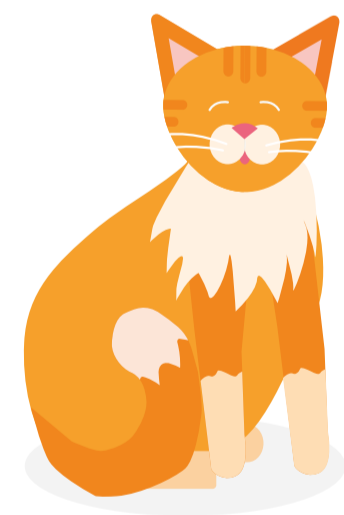
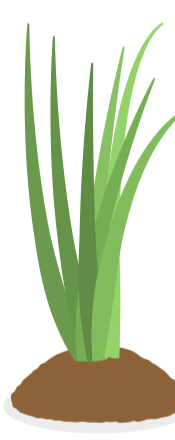
Grass Blades

Danger: Cats who have a penchant for eating grass run the risk of getting blades stuck in their nose and throat. This can cause breathing problems, sneezing and nasal discharge.

How to avoid: Keep your lawn short and avoid planting coarse and ornamental grass in your garden.

3/5
Risk rating

4/5
Likelihood rating



COMMON POISONS

11.

Flea Products

Danger: Household or spot-on dog flea products containing the insecticide permethrin can be deadly for cats.

How to avoid: Read the label carefully and avoid using any products containing permethrin.

5/5
Risk rating

4/5
Likelihood rating



12.

Engine Coolant

Danger: Engine coolant is a mixture of water and antifreeze — its main ingredient is usually the sweet tasting but highly toxic ethylene glycol.

How to avoid: Keep out of reach, clean up spills immediately, or better still, use a pet-friendly product containing propylene glycol instead.

5/5
Risk rating

4/5
Likelihood rating



13.

Rat Poison, Weed Killer and Ant Powder

Danger: Many of these products are extremely dangerous if swallowed, licked or even brushed against.

How to avoid: If the label states the product is toxic to animals, avoid, and opt for a pet-friendly alternative instead.

4/5
Risk rating

3/5
Likelihood rating



RISK RATINGS EXPLAINED

- 1 Monitor your cat carefully and if you suspect a change in condition seek advice from your vet or, out of hours, contact your nearest [Vets Now pet emergency clinic](#) or [Vets Now 24/7 hospital](#)
- 2-3 If you suspect your cat has consumed any of the items listed seek urgent advice from your vet or, out of hours, contact your nearest [Vets Now pet emergency clinic](#) or [Vets Now 24/7 hospital](#)
- 4-5 Contact your vet immediately or, out of hours, call your nearest [Vets Now pet emergency clinic](#) or [Vets Now 24/7 hospital](#) as your cat may require urgent emergency treatment

WHY DO SOME CATS EAT ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING?

- They are curious about the smell and texture
- To relieve stress
- They are bored
- They may have a nutrient deficiency
- To mimic the shearing of prey
- It may be obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD)
- A genetic predisposition
- For dental reasons like teething