

PARASITES

Ticks:

Ticks carrying Lyme disease can be a concern when walking in long grass. Check your pets for ticks (and yourself!) after romping around in long grassed areas. If you find a tick, remove it by the head with a pair of tweezers, gently twisting until it releases. Put the tick in a plastic bag and bring it to your veterinarian to have it tested for Lyme disease, a curable but potentially debilitating disease if not caught early.

Waterborne parasites:

Whipworm, hookworm, giardia (beaver fever), and coccidiosis are all parasites that can be picked up by your pet drinking feces contaminated water, often encountered in stagnant water bodies. Signs of infection may be diarrhea, lethargy, and vomiting, etc. However, not all parasites cause symptoms. If you are concerned about parasite infection, speak with your veterinarian.

Dr. Foster has over 16 years of experience practicing Veterinary Medicine and is the owner of MacTaggart Veterinary Clinic in southwest Edmonton.



At MacTaggart Veterinary Clinic, we are here for the long term health care of your pet. We provide puppy and kitten vaccines, annual health exams, spay and neuter surgery, senior care, and everything in between.

SUMMER SAFETY FOR YOUR PET



MACTAGGART

Veterinary Clinic

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TOXIC PLANTS

PARASITES

FERTILIZERS
& PESTICIDES

OTHER TOXIC PLANTS

The ASPCA offers a database of toxic and non-toxic plants (with photos) to dogs, cats, and horses.

Please note that the information contained in the ASPCA plant lists is not meant to be all-inclusive, but rather a compilation of the most frequently encountered plants. www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants

PLANTS OF CONCERN

→ **Foxtail seeds** (*Setaria viridis*)

Foxtail seeds can be a hazard for your pet. The barbed seed heads of the foxtail plant can work their way into the skin, particularly between the toes, and into the nose, ears, eyes, and mouth. The seeds may continue to burrow through soft tissues and organs causing infection, and, in rare cases, serious illness.

→ **Canada Thistle** (*Cirsium arvense*)

Can be an unpleasant irritant if your pet comes into contact with its sharp spines, plus it's considered to be a difficult to manage noxious weed. If your pet has the flowers/seeds stuck to its fur, place any removed parts in the garbage.

→ **Lilies**

Members of the *Lilium* spp. are considered

to be highly toxic to cats. While the poisonous component has not yet been identified, it is clear that with even ingestion of very small amounts of the plant severe kidney damage could result.

→ **Tulip/Narcissus Bulbs**

The bulb portions of *Tulipa/Narcissus* spp. contain toxins that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation, drooling, loss of appetite, depression of the central nervous system, convulsions and cardiac abnormalities.

→ **Amaryllis**

The *Amaryllis* species, common garden plants popular around Easter, contain toxins that can cause vomiting, depression, diarrhea, abdominal pain, hypersalivation, anorexia and tremors.



FERTILIZERS + PESTICIDES

Do not allow your pet to come into contact with fertilizers and pesticides - they can be very toxic to your pet. Read all labels and MSDS's before use!

If you think your pet has come into contact with a toxin, seek Veterinary care immediately.