



### Play it Pet-Safe This Spring by Avoiding Poisonous Plants and Vegetation



As Spring blooms, many curious pets may come into contact with plants and vegetation you may not be sure is safe for them. To help you, we've created the following brief list of some potentially harmful plants and vegetation.

Flowers: Lilies of the Valley, Hydrangeas, Buttercups, Azaleas, Morning Glories, Begonias, and Calla Lilies  
Fruit and Vegetables: Apricots, Peaches, Avocados, Tomato Leaves, Rhubarb Leaves and Onions

"There are literally hundreds of plants that have been identified as toxic that can have harmful effects on our pets," explains veterinarian Dr. Michael Farber. "Plants sometimes produce toxic substances that can cause reactions ranging from mild nausea to more serious and possibly life threatening issues. In addition to plants, rat poison and anti-freeze are also harmful to pets and commonly used in the spring."

If you suspect your pet may have ingested a poisonous plant, we recommend calling the ASPCA Poison Control Hotline immediately at 1-888-426-4435. Make sure to alert your veterinarian in case any follow-up care is needed.

For a more complete list of toxic plants, vegetation and other harmful substances, visit the ASPCA's Poison Control website at [www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poisoncontrol](http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poisoncontrol).

### Dr. Rebecca Shumaker Adds a New Member to Her Family She Returns to Our Full-Time Staff This Month



Joanna "Joey" Nicole

Joanna "Joey" Nicole, joined the Shumaker family on November 11th, 2008, weighing 6lb, 7oz. at birth. Dr. Shumaker reports she's a very smiley, happy and healthy baby girl. "She's our little princess". "She's very active and aware of everything going on around her."

**Congratulations and Welcome Back  
Dr. Shumaker!**

### Introducing West Chelsea Veterinary's Brand New Website and "Newsroom" Page



West Chelsea Veterinary's new-and-improved website features a brand new and interactive "Newsroom" page. The Newsroom page features our "Tips and Tails" newsletters, a streaming Pet TV News Channel,

hospital press releases, print and TV news pieces featuring West Chelsea Veterinary and images from events at our hospital. If you're not already receiving our e-newsletters, but you'd like to, just let a member of our support team know and we'll gladly add you to our email list. Be sure to watch our new "Virtual Tour" slideshow on our homepage at [www.WestChelseaVet.com](http://www.WestChelseaVet.com).

### National Puppy Day is March 23rd

Are you considering adding a new puppy to your family this Spring? If so, congratulations!



When you do, be sure to introduce your new companion to their new vet right away. Having your new puppy examined by your veterinarian is the first, and best step, in caring for them and in ensuring they live a full, healthy and happy life, right from the start.

During your puppy's first vet visit, your veterinarian will conduct a thorough examination to make sure they're healthy. Your vet will also answer any questions you may have about housebreaking, socialization, diet and health. A first round of vaccinations may also be administered, depending on your pup's age and level of health.

Puppies and kittens both make loving family members for many, many years.