



## Pet Talk: Toxic plants to avoid at home

Dogs and cats often nibble on plants in the house or yard, but not all plants are safe to be eaten. As you are shopping for plants this spring, keep in mind that many common options are very toxic, and even deadly, to pets.

Murl Bailey, a professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, has advice for pet owners who are not sure which plants to avoid.

Common indoor plants that are toxic to cats include the Easter Lily, Tiger Lily, Day Lily, and Dieffenbachia, commonly called Spotted Dumbcane. Bailey said that if a cat eats a lily, treatment needs to begin within 24 hours to avoid serious kidney damage.

Dieffenbachia is also toxic to dogs, as well as Kalanchoe, a small flowering succulent that can cause vomiting, heart problems, and convulsions.

Bailey said that there are several plants commonly used for outdoor landscaping that are also very toxic to pets.

All parts of sago palms, also called cycads, are very poisonous, but the seeds contain the most toxins.

Oleander, a pink flowering shrub, has toxins that harm cellular metabolism and can cause GI tract issues or heart problems. Bailey said this plant is very dangerous for horses, as well as dogs and cats.

Brunfelsia, a plant with purple flowers also known as Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, is also poisonous, especially to dogs and cattle. It grows wild in Florida but is commonly found in gardens all over the Southern U.S.

Tulips, azaleas, rhododendron, lilies, yews, and castor bean plants should also be avoided.

The best option for pet owners is to keep these plants out of the yard, or at least in an area that pets cannot access.

Bailey also recommends looking at the ASPCA website's poisonous plants page for information on other plants that may or may not be toxic. The website can be found at <https://www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants>.

If a pet does eat a toxic plant, owners may begin seeing symptoms right away, or they may develop over time.

Initially, when pets ingest toxic plants, the first symptom is vomit-

ing," Bailey said. "Depending upon which plant is ingested, the animal may develop loose bowels, become depressed, or show excitement."

Pets who have eaten toxic plants should be taken to an animal emergency clinic as soon as possible. Pet owners can also call the ASPCA poison control line at 888-426-4435.

Dogs and cats often try to eat plants due to boredom or curiosity, but they do not need them for nutrition. Bailey suggests training pets to leave plants alone or providing toys as a distraction. The best solution is to keep all plants out of a pet's reach.

Plants may be beautiful and great for landscaping, but they are not worth the loss of a pet's life. Smart plant choices are the best way to make sure your pet is not at risk for any plant poisoning.

*Pet Talk is a service of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University. Stories can be viewed on the web at [vetmed.tamu.edu/pet-talk](http://vetmed.tamu.edu/pet-talk). Suggestions for future topics may be directed to [editor@cvm.tamu.edu](mailto:editor@cvm.tamu.edu).*

## The degrees of domestic violence

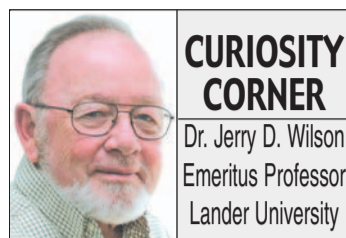
Question: We read a lot about domestic violence in the newspaper these days — with charges of first, second and third degrees. What are the differences in these degrees? (Asked by a concerned column reader.)

Reply: Indeed, domestic violence is a serious problem. In reading reports in the paper, I've wondered about the different degrees of charges myself. But, when trying to find a simple answer, most of my sources were in terms of "legalese" that was difficult to understand. I then asked Richard Whiting, Executive Editor of the Index-Journal, for help. He supplied me with some not-so-technical articles. Even so, I'll try to shorten things a bit, because legal explanations tend to become somewhat lengthy in trying to cover everything. Take the U.S. Code definition of domestic violence for example:

"The term 'domestic violence' includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabiting with or cohabited with the victim as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or victim who is protected from a person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction." (See what I mean?)

The tiers or degrees of domestic violence are based on a list of aggravating factors. The third degree is taken as a base, and then additional factors bump the charge up to second degree and so on. Different states have different laws. Here are South Carolina's:

DV in the third degree: It is illegal to cause physical harm or injury to another household member as defined under the law, or to offer or attempt to cause physical harm or injury



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Dr. Jerry D. Wilson  
Emeritus Professor  
Lander University

to a household member with apparent present ability to reasonably create imminent fear. This is a misdemeanor and persons found guilty will receive a fine of between \$1,000 and \$2,000, or jailed for up to 90 days, or both.

DV in the second degree: Similar to third degree in that the defendant either caused harm or injury or threatened it, but a second degree factor must also be proven. These factors are: moderate bodily injury results or the act was accomplished by means likely to result in moderate bodily injury. Such injuries include prolonged loss of consciousness, temporary or moderate disfigurement, temporary loss of a bodily member or organ that needs medical attention using regional or general anesthesia, or fracture or dislocation. Only one factor has to be proven for second degree, but one-time treatment for scratches, cuts or burns generally should not enhance a charge from third degree to second. If

convicted, the defendant is guilty of a misdemeanor will receive a fine between \$2,500 and \$5,000, or jailed for up to three years, or both.

DV in the first degree: Like second degree, a factor must be proven. These include: great bodily harm; use of a firearm in any manner; or while committing what would have been second degree, one of the following also happens: presence of a minor; alleged victim is pregnant; occurrence during a robbery, burglary, kidnapping or theft; impeding a victim's breathing; or block of access to phone or electronic device to stop the victim from calling the police or medical care.

There you have it — quite involved as I told you and lengthy enough! There is also "DV of a high and aggravated nature" which goes beyond the third degree, but I'll let you imagine the factors for this.

C.P.S. (Curious Postscript): He who strikes the first blow admits he's lost the argument.

Curious about something? Send your questions to Dr. Jerry D. Wilson, College of Science and Mathematics, Lander University, Greenwood, SC 29649, or email [jerry@curiosity-corner.net](mailto:jerry@curiosity-corner.net). Selected questions will appear in the Curiosity Corner. For Curiosity Corner background, go to [www.curiosity-corner.net](http://www.curiosity-corner.net).

## CHS plays for community, Whitten Center

On Tuesday, April 30, at 6:30 p.m. chamber music will be performed by band students with the Clinton High School Small Ensembles as they prepare for upcoming Solo and Ensemble Competitions. This family-friendly, free event is open to the public and will be hosted at the Brooker-Blakely All Faiths Chapel at Whitten Center.

Whitten Center works to assist those with disabilities and their families to address individual needs, empower minds, promote growth in skills and abilities, and facilitate social

interaction and community involvement. This is done in a setting that encourages independence balanced with a safe, secure, and supportive environment.

"This event partnership with Clinton High School allows students a new opportunity for music presentation, while also promoting interaction and inclusion with our facility," stated Tara Glenn, Director of Volunteer Services and Staff Development. "Our residents love music and new friendly faces, so this will be a great

event for the Laurens County community all involved!"

If you would like more information on how to get involved with Whitten Center, or have questions regarding this event please contact Tara Glenn, Director of Staff Development and Volunteer Services, at 864-938-3332 or e-mailing [tglen@dssn.sc.gov](mailto:tglen@dssn.sc.gov).

## PUBLIC RECORDS

### Marriage Licenses

Tyler Lee Barrett and Devan Marie Jones, Gray Court

Steven Ray Miles and Melissa Ann Muller, Fountain Inn

Vanda Lee Oliver and Leah-Marie Alison Garrett, Gray Court

Christopher Anthony Calvert, Laurens, and Karleon Yvonne Goldman, Waterloo

Dennis Michael Powell and Alexis Savannah Davenport, Gray Court

David Stanley Butakis, Gray Court, and Brandy Lee Hamilton, Fountain Inn

Eric Alan Caughorn and Angel Leigh Stone, Joanna

Allen Bernard Pulley, Fountain Inn, and Sherry Anna Eaton, Simpsonville

Michael Wayne Barnette and Katie Leeann Landers, Laurens

Thomas Jermaine Reeder and Tawanna Latrea Dorsey, Joanna

Cassius Lamont Johnson and Cindy Lou Williams, Clinton

Demontre Juwan Kelly and Tamarh Shaquail Boyd, Clinton

Darren Michael Ladd and Debra Diane Bates, Laurens

Jesse Ray Bernhardt, Fountain Inn, and Haley E. Bullard, Whitmire

Charlie Randolph Mason, Boiling Springs, and Nancy Copeland Anderson, Clinton

Kyle Weston Doggett and Heather Nicole Samples, Gray Court

Larry Dean Suttles and Janet Lee York, Moore

Matthew Caleb Traynham and Megan Nicole Dudleson, Gray Court

Curtis Edward Sledge, Gray Court, and Rebekah Paige Holt, Fountain Inn

Samuel Scott Cathey and Frances Rebecca Stone, Honea Path

Bryson Noland Graydon, Laurens, and Mallory Louise Herman, Waterloo

Warren Alex Palmer and Jessica Nicole Hendrix, Honea Path

Kenneth Edward Francis and Madonna Gonzales Behimino, Clinton

Ethan Stuart Burns and Aerial La'rhia Sullivan, Laurens

Brandon Carroll Woodward, Clinton, and Megan Marie Fowler, Gray Court

Mahmud Mohamad Alramahi, Greenville, and Lizette Marie Aviles, Laurens

Dennis Michael Powell and Alexis Savannah Davenport, Gray Court

Allen Bernard Pulley, Fountain Inn, and Sherry Anna Eaton, Simpsonville

Michael Wayne Barnette and Katie Leeann Landers, Laurens

Thomas Jermaine Reeder and Tawanna Latrea Dorsey, Joanna

Darren Michael Ladd and Debra Diane Bates, Laurens

### Divorces

John Brewington Jr. and Chrystal Turner

John Irby Carter and Amanda Elizabeth Carter

Matthew McAlister and Echo Marie McAlister

Kelly Ann Garner and James Kevin Garner

Morgan Hannah Hurley Grant and Darin Dustin Grant

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